

# THE TIMES



No. 66,279

THURSDAY AUGUST 13 1998

http://www.the-times.co.uk

THURSDAY  
**30p**  
EVERY WEEKDAY

**Dr Stuttford's survival kit for summer**  
page 16



**THE TIMES FANTASY LEAGUE**  
£100,000 to be won  
page 37



New films: page 31 Latest books: pages 34,35 Plus 16 pages of APPOINTMENTS

Effect of £1,000 tuition fees put to test

## Universities fear boycott of clearing

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

UNIVERSITY admissions officers and head teachers fear many students will shun next week's post-A level clearing process, which fills one in six higher education places.

The introduction of £1,000-a-year tuition fees has had little impact on applications for degree courses, apparently putting off only a minority of mature students. This year's most popular university courses are those with lucrative employment prospects.

But fears are mounting that many who do not achieve their target grades will re-sit examinations or go straight into employment rather than join the annual scramble for under-subscribed courses with poor employment prospects.

Some new universities and colleges rely on the post-results period to fill a majority of their places, so any collapse in clearing numbers would damage the preparation of a balance in higher education.

More than 30,000 students entered higher education through clearing last year after being rejected by their first-choice universities.

Tony Higgins, the chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (Ucas), said yesterday that officials were looking closely for any decline.

John Dunford, the head teacher of Durham Johnston School in Durham, said: "When students were filling in their application forms nine months ago, it was a different ball game. Now, if their original plans go awry and the

back-up course is unlikely to make a financial difference in the long run, they are bound to ask if it is still worth going."

Mr Dunford, who takes over as general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association next month, added: "The people going to universities demanding medium and high grades are not going to change their mind, but sixth-formers are recognising that those with lower requirements do not offer a passport to a good job. Those who miss their grades are likely to re-sit or go straight into a job."

The National Union of Students said tuition fees would act as a deterrent to applicants contemplating clearing. A spokeswoman said: "Clearing is always a risk, but the £1,000 price tag is bound to make students think harder about whether it is worth it. This will be the first test of whether fees are going to restrict access to higher education."

Mr Higgins said it would be "regrettable" if other students were withdrawing in large numbers from clearing. Students are expected to clear automatically if they are rejected by their chosen universities. "This is certainly a main issue this year, but so far all the forecasts of doom and despondency since the announcement of tuition fees have been proved wrong," he said.

Figures released by Ucas yesterday suggest that applicants are more influenced than ever by future employment prospects. Computing courses, media and business

studies are booming while the physical sciences, teacher training and nursing are in decline.

By next year the number of courses offered by the former polytechnics will outnumber those at traditional universities. Dr Higgins said the change represented a step on the way to an American-style higher education system, headed by Ivy League universities and with many more students being educated at further education colleges near their homes.

The Ucas report showed a sharp growth in the number of students entering university with vocational qualifications, rather than A levels. Almost 30,000 higher education students had GNVQs last year, three times the number in 1995.

Applications from mature students dropped over the same period, casting doubt on claims that this year's decline was entirely attributable to the introduction of tuition fees. Dr Higgins said the trend might reflect poor employment prospects for older graduates and the availability of places ten or 15 years ago. "It is possible that the market for those who could not find places when they left school is now becoming saturated."

The numbers accepted in clearing jumped by more than 6,500 last year, following the announcement of tuition fees for entrants in 1998. Dr Higgins said that he expected the number of places available in clearing to be similar this summer.



At least Buddy is pleased to see the President home. Photograph: Tim Sloan/AFP

## Solace: a dog and a thriller

FROM DAMIAN WHEATWORTH IN WASHINGTON

HIS troubles are crowding in and he is being forced to delay his seaside holiday to stay at the White House, the place he calls "the crown jewel of the American penal system". However, hanging around waiting to meet Kenneth Starr has not stopped President Clinton from starting his beach reading. As he has almost no-one to talk to, and to take his mind off more pressing matters, he has been escaping into thrillers.

As he hopped off a helicopter onto the White House lawn yesterday to be greeted by his dog, Buddy, Mr Clinton was clutching a copy of *Time to Hunt*, by Stephen Hunter. The man who has just been described as "the loneliest guy in the country" by his former chief of staff, Leon Panetta, gripped the book as if he was planning to get back between the covers the moment he was out of camera shot.

The President had broken off a nationwide speaking and fundraising tour for talks with his national security advisers about the recent bombings in East Africa. He was also expected to be locked in talks with his lawyers ahead of Monday's Grand Jury hear-

ing into the Monica Lewinsky affair.

President Truman said that "if you really want a friend in Washington, get a dog". With the threat of subpoenas making only his lawyers and his wife safe to talk to, Mr Clinton probably appreciated the truth of this long ago.

The President will no doubt also feel comfortable with his reading matter, as the action takes place in other troubled times, switching between Washington and Vietnam in the early 1970s.

The *Washington Post* described the work, to be published in Britain next month, as "edge of the seat reading... a well-plotted thriller, infused with enough lyrical prose and insightful musings about the human condition to make it worth the time of even less adventure prone readers."

Mr Clinton is hardly that. But he seems to be unable to get enough of fast action. Long a fan of thrillers, with Walter Mosley and Kinky Friedman numbering among his favourite authors, he also knows something of the summer's cinema blockbusters.

During his coast-to-coast tour this week he wandered into the press cabin one night to join reporters watching the asteroid action thriller, *Deep Impact*. Relaxing in jeans and open-necked, short-sleeved shirt, he declared that *The Mask of Zorro*, in which the hero exorcises himself from a lot of tight spots with a great deal of swashbuckling, was the best film of the year. Then he compared *Deep Impact* to another flick, apparently without a hint of irony. "I think *Armageddon* is good. I liked it better," he said.



Presidential reading: Vietnam era thriller

Arkansas bias, page 14

## Unemployment and inflation figures bolster Chancellor

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR, AND JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government, besieged by criticism of its handling of the economy, yesterday gratefully pounced on news of a fall in unemployment to its lowest level for 18 years, combined with an easing in wage pressures which had been responsible for interest rate rises.

There was also considerable pleasure in Westminster with the latest report on inflation prospects from the Bank of England which appeared to back off from threats of even more interest rate increases as the slowdown in the economy intensifies but also offered a ringing endorsement of the Chancellor's claim that his plans for increased public spending are prudent.

Stephen Byers, the Treasury Chief Secretary, insisted that the Government's economic plans were "on course", but he issued a warning that further action would have to be taken to stop big pay rises in the private sector to meet inflation targets. The Bank of England report suggested that inflation would fall to its 2.5 per cent target by 2000. But ministers are concerned that this could be jeopardised by high pay increases in the boardroom.

"Today's inflation report from the Bank of England shows that following the Government's tough action to get the economy back on track, growth is set to strengthen through next year with inflation falling to its 2.5 per cent target," Mr Byers said.

The City said that it was a good day for the financial markets and a good day for the Government.

Hopes that the next move in interest rates will be down buoyed the stock market, which has been battered by worries about the fall-out from the Asian economic crisis and fears of a crash on Wall Street. Yesterday, the FTSE 100 index

of leading shares rallied 29.4 points to close at 5,462.2, helping to stabilise confidence after heavy falls in recent days.

Official figures showed yesterday that the economy, despite slowing under the weight of higher rates, the strong pound and the economic crisis in Asia, is still creating jobs. Employment has risen by 21,000 over the past three months compared with the first three months of the year. Last month, the number of people claiming benefit fell by 26,000 to 1,335,000, taking the claimant unemployment rate to 4.7 per cent, the lowest since 1980. In addition, the Government's preferred, internationally recognised, measure of unemployment, based on data in the Labour Force Survey, is also still falling. In the three months from April to June, this measure fell by 62,000 compared with January to March.

At the same time, growth in average earnings, the overriding reason which persuaded

Continued on page 2, col 1

Markets rally, page 23  
Commentary, page 25



## Iran linked to US embassy bomb blasts

America ordered the temporary closure of half a dozen diplomatic missions and placed all its embassies on full alert after last week's bomb blasts in Africa. Several suspects were arrested.

A possible Iranian link to the attacks is being investigated after it emerged that the Iranian envoy to Dar es Salaam was involved in a bombing in Argentina which killed 89 people. Page 15

## Scientist's potato alert 'was untrue'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

WARNINGS about genetically modified food issued by a scientist earlier this week were improper and misleading, a top British nutrition laboratory admitted yesterday.

The scientist involved, Dr Arpad Pusztai, 68, has been suspended by the Rowett Research Institute in Aberdeen and will resign. He had claimed that experiments with genetically modified potatoes had shown immune-system damage in rats that ate them for more than 100 days.

The report said yesterday that this was not true. The data on which Dr Pusztai had referred first in an interview with *World in Action* and then with *The Times* and other media, did not involve genetically modified potatoes. Rather, it involved feeding trials in which a protein from the jack bean, a lectin, was added to a potato-based feed. Since this lectin is known to harm the immune system, the damage was not surprising.

The institute does intend to carry out feeding trials with a potato modified by inserting

the gene for this lectin, called Con A, but has yet to start.

The institute said that it regrets the release of misleading information about issues of such importance to the public and the scientific community. Professor Philip James, the director, had suspended Dr Pusztai from all responsibility for the studies, and put Dr Andrew Chesson, head of research, in charge.

Dr Colin Merritt of Monsanto, the leading company involved in genetic modified crops, said: "It seems the researcher leading this programme was out of the country... Meanwhile, Dr Pusztai had gone to the media. Basically he has picked up non-genetically modified potato data, in which the naturally occurring poison Con A has been added, and read that as the effect of transgenic modified potatoes. It is an awful mistake and these revelations are absolute dynamite."

Dr Pusztai was quoted on *World in Action* as saying that on the evidence he had gathered, he would not eat genetically modified foods.

Last night Dr Pusztai said that his main concern was to ensure colleagues were not sacked. From his Aberdeen home, he said: "I do not want to speak right now because I have effectively been sacked."

Dr Pusztai is thought to have arrived in Britain from his native Hungary in 1956. He is a leading world expert in lectins and, according to institute sources, has an "enormous international reputation". He has worked at the institute for 20 years.

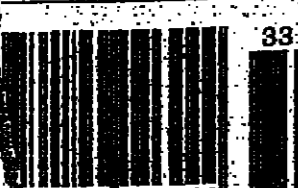


Pusztai will retire after suspension by institute

Derwent May, page 18

- TV & RADIO 22-23
- WEATHER 22-23
- CROSSWORDS 22-24
- LETTERS 23
- OBITUARIES 21
- TIM TABLES 23
- ARTS 31-33
- CHESS & BRIDGE 28
- COURT & SOCIAL 28
- BUSINESS 23-25
- BODY & MIND 26
- BOOKS 24-25

Britain: The Times overseas  
Australia \$25; Belgium \$ 25; 10p  
Canada \$ 30; Denmark 12.50  
France 22.50; Germany 22.50  
Greece 22.50; Hong Kong \$ 25  
Italy 22.50; Japan 22.50; Korea 22.50  
Malaysia 22.50; Mexico 22.50  
New Zealand 22.50; Norway 22.50  
Portugal 22.50; Spain 22.50; Sweden 22.50  
Switzerland 22.50; Taiwan 22.50  
Thailand 22.50; USA \$ 30



000140046244



# Families of murdered terrorists may be paid compensation

### Minister says that they could share £5 million fund for victims of Ulster violence, reports Audrey Magee

RELATIVES of murdered terrorists in Northern Ireland are to be allowed to apply for compensation from the Government.

Adam Ingram, the Northern Ireland Minister responsible for victims, said that the relatives of republican and loyalist terrorists could submit applications for help from a £5 million fund set aside by the Government to help those who had suffered by violence and terrorism.

Mr Ingram, announcing the release of a further £1.3 million from the fund yesterday, said that applicants would be assessed by trustees assigned to distribute the money to victims. He was responding to demands from the republican Victims of Trauma support group that the aid be extended to all victims, including relatives of murdered terrorists.

Brendan Bradley, a group member, said: "It is the people who are left behind who are suffering, and we don't want to see any distinction in the way this money is applied."

Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist security spokesman, said it was outrageous that the relatives of dead terrorists would even be considered. "It is absolutely and totally wrong. I would rather see no compensation for anybody than see terrorists being grouped with the real victims," he said.

Mr Ingram said that decisions would be made on the basis of each application for financial help. The families of victims, including the relatives of murdered terrorists, will be able to apply for funding under three schemes. A £250,000 education bursary will be allocated to children and young adults who lost their parents, while the young, elderly and disabled will benefit from a £60,000 investment in befriending and counselling projects.

A memorial fund is being set up to raise money to help victims in financial difficulty. The Government has pledged to give up to £1 million towards the fund to match the money raised. "I am committed to ensuring that victims get the recognition they deserve," Mr Ingram said. The package, announced in the Survivors of Trauma Centre in north Belfast, follows the report completed earlier this year by Sir Kenneth Bloomfield, the former head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

# Jobs gloom confounds the official optimism

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

MINISTERS rounded on "gloom and doom merchants" for spreading scare stories about rising unemployment. They seized on figures published yesterday showing that the number of people claiming benefit has fallen to its lowest level for 16 years.

David Blunkett, the Employment Secretary, said that the figures were very good news indeed and discredited the "hysterical headlines" that had greeted announcements of job cuts from large overseas companies in Britain such as Siemens of Germany and BOC.

But even as the Government applauded the fact that the economy is still robust enough to be generating jobs overall, more redundancies were announced. Halka, an engineering company that makes forklift trucks and was the first Korean firm to invest in Wales, announced that it is making all but 30 of its original 170-strong workforce redundant because of the financial pressures of economic crisis in Asia.

Gloomy news such as this — coupled with a rise in bankruptcies — appears to be at odds with the official statistics suggesting that, although job creation is slowing, the jobs market is still relatively healthy. In July, claimant-count unemployment — the old headline rate of joblessness — fell by 26,000 to 1,335,000. This took the claimant unemployment rate to 4.7 per cent, the lowest since 1980.

# Tories fear inflation rise

Continued from page 1 the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee to raise base rates in June despite cries of distress from British exporters, has eased back. Average earnings growth in April to June fell to 5.0 per cent from 5.4 per cent in March to May.

Andrew Smith, Employment Minister, said that jobs figures were a setback for the "gloom and doom merchants" and David Blunkett, Employment Secretary, expressed the hope that rational debate about the economy could now replace the "hysterical headlines" of recent days.

The Tories seized on the Bank of England report which they said showed higher than expected inflation over the next 12 months, with little prospect of lower interest rates, and further pressure on the manufacturing industry.

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, said that the minutes of the Monetary Policy Committee's July meeting and the August inflation report showed that the national minimum wage would raise the natural rate of unemployment and push up inflation.



Judy Pearsall, editor of the New Oxford Dictionary

# New dictionaries redefine the words 'marketing war'

BY ALEX O'CONNELL

A WAR of words is being fought between the rival publishers of two prestigious dictionaries that will reach the shops within days of each other.



Admired by rivals as a "wonderful rag-bag"

The New Oxford Dictionary of English, out today, and the revised Chambers Dictionary are competing to secure the loyalty of readers, writers and Scrabble players in a market estimated to be worth £8 million a year.

Yesterday the sedate world of the wordsmiths descended into semantic fistfights. John Millington, marketing manager at Chambers, swung the first blow: "I am surprised that Oxford feel the need to make trivial changes just to get attention."

Patrick Hanks, chief editor of the new Oxford dictionary, countered: "I am flabbergasted. Chambers has obviously not had a look at this dictionary. Every single entry has been written in the light of evidence."

Mr Hanks, for Oxford, confessed to a "sneaking regard" for Chambers: "It is a wonderful rag-bag of an extraordinary collection of the sort of words not used since 17th-century Argyllshire. But we try and talk about how words are used today."

"Take the example of lunchbox," he added. "Linford Christie's lunchbox could only mean the object he eats out of, according to Chambers."

But Chambers claims to be far more "with it" than the crusty Oxford volume, citing the inclusion of words such as gobshite (a stupid person) and sialdo (a dull or unsociable person) to prove its point.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Wreck cameras may have found remains

Robot cameras have sighted possible human remains inside the wreck of the *Gaul*, lost off the northern coast of Norway 24 years ago. The findings by a team from the Marine Accidents Investigation Branch will now be analysed in Britain.

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister and a Hull MP, sent a message of sympathy to the relatives, saying: "My thoughts are with all of you. After 24 years, the survey you requested is now nearly over. We must now wait for a detailed analysis. If it is confirmed that the vessel contains the remains of your loved ones, I hope that they can now be left to rest in peace in keeping with the long seafaring tradition which looks on the sea as a noble and honourable resting place."

### Patients told to speak up

The Government is to spend up to £2 million a year to give patients the chance to say what they think of the National Health Service. The money will fund an independent poll of 150,000 people with recent experience of treatment. It is scheduled to begin this autumn and to be updated every year.

### Police may get 4% rise

A 4 per cent national pay rise for police officers is being supported by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. The increase exceeds the recommendation by Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, for public service increases to be pegged at 2.5 per cent. But the rise is based on a standard pay formula agreed in 1994, and last year Mr Straw pledged to police managers that he would stand by the formula.

### Sex-case PC found guilty

PC Thomas Reeder, 33, was given a conditional discharge and told to pay £1,500 costs at Lewes Crown Court, East Sussex, after being convicted of indecently assaulting a trainee WPC at a disco. The court was told that he fondled her from behind when colleagues urged him to discover if she was wearing underwear beneath tight trousers.

### Prescott denies BA split

John Prescott yesterday denied that ministers were at odds over British Airways' plans to sell take-off and landing slots to other companies, hours after he voiced strong opposition to the move. The Deputy Prime Minister said on Tuesday that he did not believe BA should be allowed to sell 267 pairs of slots to meet the criteria set by Brussels for its alliance with American Airlines. However, the decision is the responsibility of Peter Mandelson, the Trade and Industry Secretary.

### Flare frees explorers

Arctic explorers whose boat was surrounded by polar bears while it was trapped in thick ice were last night free after driving off one of the hungry animals with a flare. Jonathan Collins, whose brother Andrew was aboard the 46-foot Arctic Fern, heading for Franz Josef Land, received a call yesterday confirming that the vessel had broken through after being stuck behind five miles of ice.

# Bristol heart surgery inquiry to cover all children's deaths

BY IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE deaths of dozens of children who were operated on at the Bristol Royal Infirmary will be investigated in depth for the first time by the public inquiry set up to look into heart surgery at the hospital.

## SECOND SURGEON SUSPENDED

The Scottish hospital at the centre of the inquiry into the deaths of children who were operated on at the Bristol Royal Infirmary yesterday after health inspectors raised doubts about his clinical competence following the death of a patient (Shirley English writes).

Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has decided to extend the inquiry to cover all cases treated at the hospital over the period between 1984 and 1995. This meets the demand of parents to go beyond the 29 cases investigated by the General Medical Council, which confined its inquiry into two kinds of operation carried out by the hospital between 1988 and 1995.

Mr Dhasmana, who carried out any operations on children for three years. A third doctor, John Roylance, who was chief executive of the hospital trust, was also struck off the register and has since appealed against the decision.

Mr Dhasmana, who carried out any operations on children for three years. A third doctor, John Roylance, who was chief executive of the hospital trust, was also struck off the register and has since appealed against the decision.

everyone who was accountable for these tragic deaths." The inquiry, which will be led by Ian Kennedy, professor of health law, ethics and policy at University College London, will look into the management of the care of children receiving the heart surgery; it will also establish what action was taken both within and outside the hospital to deal with concerns raised once it was known that too many babies were dying from the operations.

The United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust issued a statement saying it welcomed the announcement. "The trust recognises the need to examine events of the past, and will co-operate fully with the inquiry, as it did during the disciplinary hearing of the General Medical Council."

**As all good FDs know, being well-connected and in control requires the right business card.**

01234567890

All calls made outside the office by your staff with a BT Business Chargecard can be billed direct to your business. So when they go abroad, your BT Business Charters discounts go with them, giving you big savings on all calls, including those made from hotels. And with fully licensed billing that lets you manage staff calls, you'll always be in control.

**Why not change the way we work? BT**

Apply now, spend £10 on your BT Business Chargecard and get £10 back. Freefone 0800 800 800 for more information or visit [www.bt.com/business](http://www.bt.com/business)

APPLIES TO DIRECT DIALED CALLS ONLY. OFFER APPLIES TO NEW APPLICANTS ONLY. OFFER ENDS 26/10/98.

aches  
ic hor

and the ve  
out the qu

nt teacher  
ighbour's



# Turks need space for barbecues and Bangladeshis a balcony to dry poppadums, says housing guide

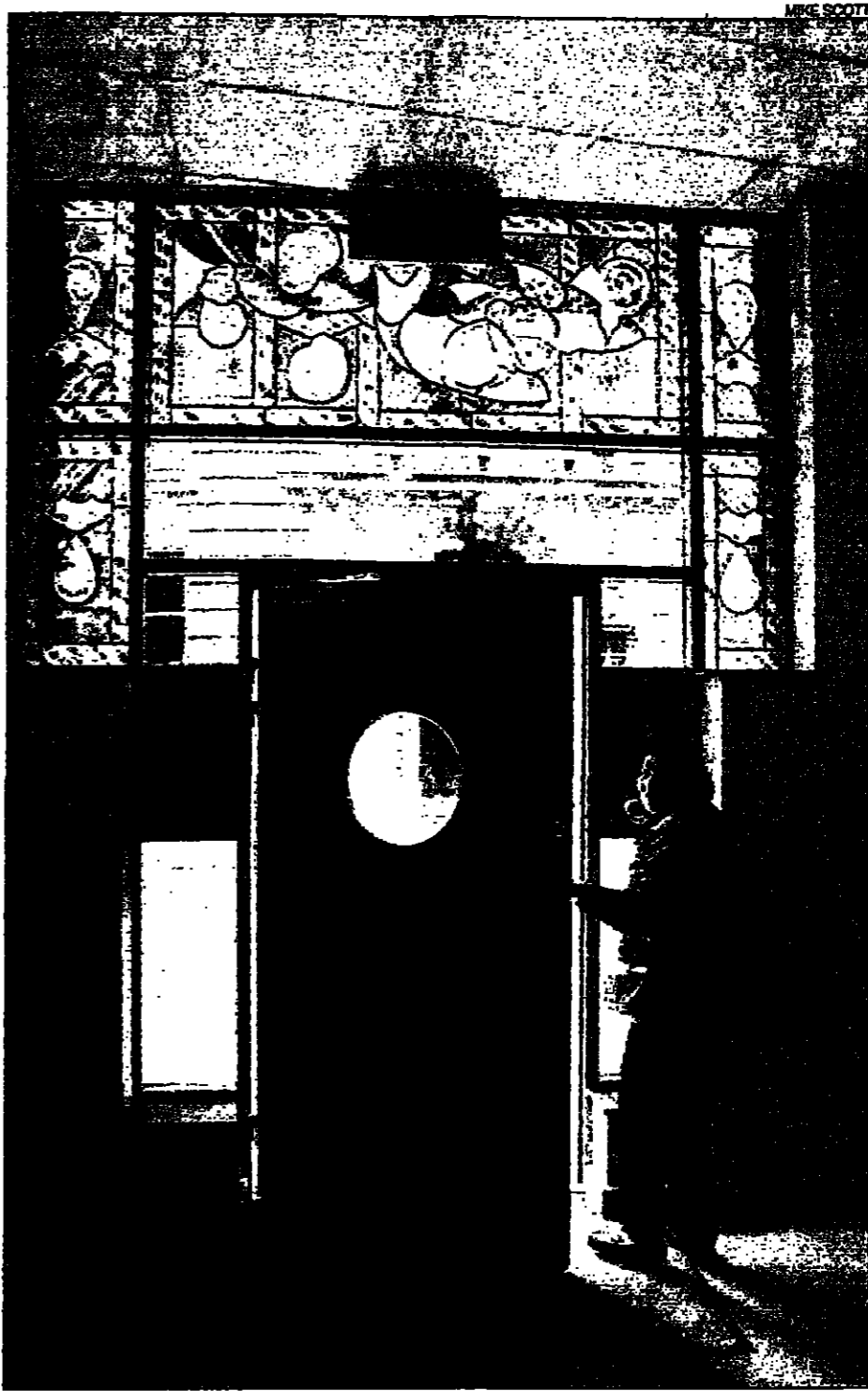


Lee Samuel House, Brixton, South London



Schonfeld Lodge, Stoke Newington, North London

A glazed, veranda-like space in a housing scheme for elderly Afro-Caribbeans, far left, adapts a West Indian relationship between indoors and outdoors for a cold climate; the lintel and columns at the entrance to a housing scheme for Orthodox Jews, left, are based on Old Testament prototypes; while at the entrance to flats for elderly Chinese, right, the window is the door represents the circle of life. The window above has been divided up with stained glass, otherwise its coffin shape would be bad luck.



Entrance to flats for elderly Chinese in Princess Street, Manchester

## Touches that create an ethnic home from home

Alexandra Frean and Hannah Kaye report on design advice to architects building houses for racial and religious minorities

WHITE paint is wrong for homes designed for the Chinese community but green is good for Muslims. Houses built for Bangladeshi people should include a balcony or veranda where they can dry their poppadums, and Turks and Cypriots need space for their barbecues.

These are among recommendations to architects and designers in a report aimed at ensuring that housing for minority communities take cultural, religious and social needs into account. The guide is published by the National Housing Federation, an umbrella body for housing trusts, and the Home Housing Trust, one of the biggest housing associations in Britain. When local authorities decide to build homes to rent, they often ask housing associations to create and manage the schemes, especially if they are for an ethnic or religious community.

The report contains advice on the symbolism of different colours; shapes and motifs in different cultures. It emphasises the importance of orientation and geometry for particular racial groups and contains rules on which way houses should face, how doors

should be aligned and the appropriate shape for rooms or windows. Some groups, for example, prefer certain colours. Black and white are associated with death by the Chinese. Reds are popular among Chinese and Vietnamese people, being associated with good fortune, and green is often favoured by Muslims.

Arun Misra, ethnic policy officer at the federation, said that, although minority ethnic groups accounted for 14 per cent of people allocated new homes by housing associations, their specific needs had been neglected. "It is important that people feel comfortable in their own homes and their own communities. Integration into the rest of society comes after that," he said.

Mr Misra, who was born in Singapore, and who lives in a Sixties house in Harrow, northwest London, with an enclosed patio - ideal as a play area

for children and for drying certain foods - said there was usually little cost in incorporating culturally specific design.

The advice includes: Some Chinese object to rectangular, coffin-shaped windows - break them up with small, square panes. Some will not have the bed face a door, including a wardrobe. Chinese may avoid the number 4, which is pronounced similarly to their word for death.

Buddhist, Confucian and Taoist people may want carefully located niches and shelves for shrines. Greek Orthodox may want similar spaces for icons and candles. Barbecues are a popular social ritual for Turks and Cypriots - even a small balcony will do.

For some Vietnamese a pond is an important symbol, ideally a running stream with a bridge.

In some Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani households a private, sheltered outdoor space will be used for sun-drying such foods as poppadums. Orthodox Jews need garden fences to be at least a metre high to demarcate clearly the edge of the property, as carrying any object beyond the boundaries of the dwelling is prohibited on the Sabbath.

Kurdish and Filipino households may require space for large freezers, as they may buy a whole lamb.

In the households of many minority ethnic groups, including Bangladeshi, Chinese, Greek and Turkish-Cypriot, a space for a sewing machine needs to be found. It should be usable without disturbing the rest of the household.

Low window sills are ideal for minority ethnic groups who have a tradition of sitting on the floor, enabling them to see out.

The report's authors say that the guidelines are not about segregation but are designed to promote integration of minority cultures and groups. "Meeting these needs and encouraging the expression of identity is both constructive and enriching, likely to promote inclusion."

## Never mind the veranda, what about the quality?

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE idea that lifestyles of ethnic minorities may call for design considerations puzzled some community leaders.

William Trant, of the West Indian Standing Conference, which represents Caribbean people in Britain, said he did not think that culturally specific buildings made people feel more at home. "It is all very well putting verandas on buildings; if the weather is going to be as good all year, but that is not the case."

Mr Trant, who lives in a Victorian semi in West London, added: "The Caribbean is a different environment and you cannot mix the two. Children born here would not be terribly fussed about asking for a home that was symbolic of what they would have in the Caribbean. It just is not an issue. Far more important is the quality of the home you have."

Ira Symons, the chief executive of Agodas Israel, a Jewish

housing association, believes that, while building design matters in social housing, the way the properties are managed is far more important. "It is not bricks and mortar that makes a happy community, it is shared values and ethics and good management."

The Agodas Israel housing scheme for Orthodox Jews in Schonfeld Square, North London, incorporates certain culturally specific designs. In addition to kosher kitchens and its own synagogue, the scheme also has a massive lintel and columns at its entrance that are based on Old Testament prototypes.

Janis Wong, director of the Tung Sing (Orient) Housing Association, which runs more than 300 homes for Chinese people in Manchester, welcomed the report to which she was a contributor. She said that culturally specific elements in design were especially important for the older Chinese population, many of whom do not speak English.

Ms Wong said that the Chinese were very superstitious about certain shapes and colours. Their kitchens needed large cupboards, as they traditionally bought in bulk; and strong extractor fans, as they frequently cooked in woks at high temperatures. Special design features would be recognised by any Chinese person stepping into Tung Sing's homes, but most white Britons would probably not notice them much, she said.

Ms Wong denied that designing housing to reflect cultural diversity would result in ghettos. "The intention is not to segregate. The intention is to integrate them into the norm. It is just human nature that people want to live according to their own culture and be close to other people of their own culture."

## Student teacher dies in neighbour's house

By PAUL WILKINSON

A STUDENT teacher has been found bludgeoned to death in a house six doors from her home. Police said last night that they wanted to interview a neighbour.

Rachel Tough, 18, was struck several times with a blunt instrument as she visited John Thompson to help him with a troublesome washing machine. His wife, Michelle, and two of the couple's three young sons later found her lying in the kitchen when they returned from visiting a friend.

Yesterday Mr Thompson was not at the house in Consett, Co Durham, close to where Miss Tough lived with her mother, two brothers and two sisters. Durham police said last night: "The whereabouts of the occupant of the house are unknown. Detectives are anxious to talk to him as a matter of urgency."

Superintendent John Blake, leading the murder hunt, said: "This was a brutal, vicious attack on a young woman with all her future to look forward to. Rachel's family is devastated by what has happened and we are determined to catch her killer as soon as we can." Police were called to the Thompson house on the Moorside estate at 8.45pm.



Rachel Tough was hit with blunt instrument

on Tuesday after a 999 call was made. Two constables who arrived first tried to revive her, as did paramedics, but they were not successful and a police surgeon pronounced her dead at the scene. A post-mortem examination showed she had died from a series of blows to her head.

Miss Tough's mother, Lesley Maughan, was being comforted at home by her eldest daughter, Mandy, a 24-year-old hairdresser; her sons Gary, 22, and Kevin, 19; and their half-sister Jessica, 11. Mrs Maughan has remarried and her former husband, the father of the four oldest children, lives in

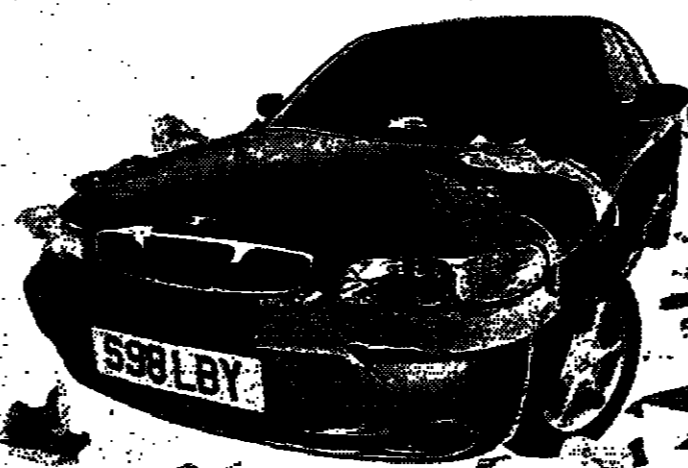
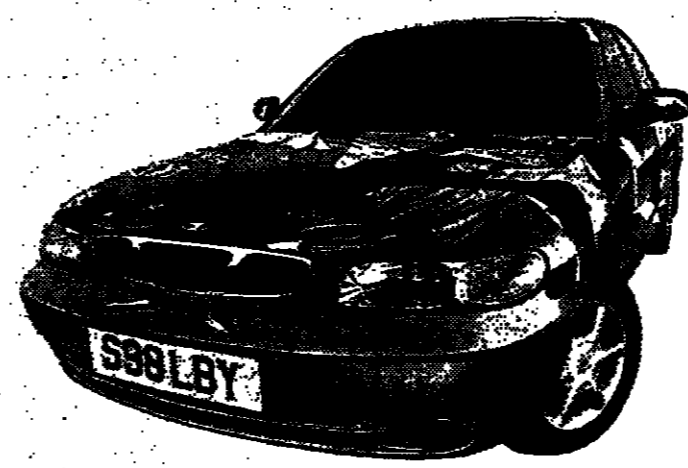
Scotland. Miss Tough was teaching at Leadgate Junior School in Consett and worked during the week in the town's Grove and Moorside Workingmen's Club. She was studying at the Derwentside teacher training college in Consett.

One neighbour said: "She was a lovely lass, quiet but very friendly. She loved kids and did a lot of babysitting in the area, she wouldn't have hurt a soul. It is shocking to think that she was killed in such a violent way, a lot of people who barely even knew her have been in tears."

"She had been to college and was training to be a teacher; all she wanted was to work with kids. It is awful to think she had so much in front of her that has been taken away."

At weekends Miss Tough worked at the Royal Derwent Hotel in Allensford on the Co Durham-Northumberland border. Andrew Simpson, the hotel manager said: "Everyone here is in a state of utter shock, we can't believe what has happened. Rachel has worked here for over a year and was a very cheerful and popular member of staff."

"She was a very intelligent young lady. This is a dreadful tragedy and our thoughts are with her family."



# BUY ONE GET ONE FREE

Buy a new Daewoo this August and we'll replace it with another brand new equivalently specified Daewoo next March. You'll have to be quick though, the offer runs from July 2nd to August 31st and is limited to the first 1,000 private buyers living on the UK mainland. Because the government has decided to change the car registration plate twice a year anyone buying a new car now, only has the latest registration plate for seven months. Unless of course, it's a Daewoo you're buying, then you'll have the new registration plate for a whole year. If this doesn't tempt you, there are three other offers to choose from:

- 1) Special rate finance, typical APR from 7.6% based on a personal contract purchase - you must be over 18 to apply.
- 2) One year's free comprehensive insurance.
- 3) A free Sony 10 disc CD Autochanger.


All offers are subject to status with written quotations available on request. Daewoo's fixed prices range from £8,820 to £17,520. You can get more information on our cars and our offers by calling us free on 0800 666 222.

Two new cars for the price of one? That'll be the Daewoo.



**THE TIMES ON SATURDAY**

*Diana*



*The Royals at war over her memory*

**EXCLUSIVE**

# Hard porn must be legalised, says film censor

James Ferman believes regulation is only way to halt black market in obscene videos, writes Carol Midgley

**HARD** pornography must be legalised to halt Britain's flourishing black market in obscene videos, the chief film censor said yesterday.

James Ferman, who retires in December after 23 years as the director of the British Board of Film Classification, said restrictions of "conventional" pornography had created a black market for far more extreme films featuring children, animals and violence.



Ferman, retiring after 23 years as chief censor

In his last annual report, published yesterday, he recommends greater freedoms be given to film-makers within a new "R18" category that will allow classification to be given to films with scenes of homosexual and heterosexual intercourse and group sex.

But he said that hard pornography involving violence should not be legalised, and he rejected giving morality campaigners a right to appeal against censor's decisions.

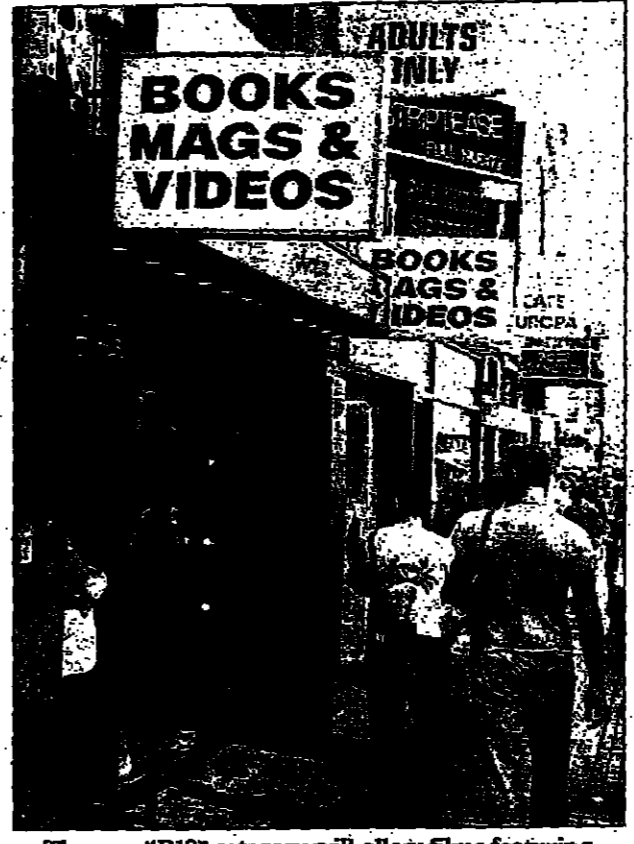
Mr Ferman said that the influx of violent sex videos into the country was the biggest failure of his period of office. He said that if hard pornography were legalised, it could be regulated properly and the police would no longer have to

black market will just grow and grow. A little of what people want is OK as long as it's on the harmless end of the spectrum. The more you try to ban it, the more it grows."

The annual report states: "As we enter a new millennium we must find a solution to the problem of pornography, which will not go away. The law has been applied by police and magistrates in too strict a manner to allow the material the customers want."

Mr Ferman, who was born in New York, the son of a film director and a teacher, has been severely criticised in the press during his career. His first taste of public outrage came when he gave the porn film *Emmanuelle* a release a few months after taking up his post in 1975. It was seen as his first big test and his decision contributed to his reputation as a "wet liberal".

Another of his first tasks was to restore a famous sex scene that had been cut from *Last Tango in Paris* before it was screened in Britain, and he also had to face flak in 1979 from Christians over the Monty Python film *Life of Brian*. He has followed an increasingly liberal policy in



The new "R18" category will allow films featuring group and homosexual sex to be sold in Soho shops.

# Obscenity laws make prosecution difficult

BY ADRIAN LEE

THE control of pornography in Britain relies heavily on a law that is almost 40 years old. Under the Obscene Publications Act of 1959 it is illegal to sell anything likely to "deprave and corrupt". The definition itself dates from 1868.

Its supporters argue that the wording of the legislation, which was used to prosecute the publishers of *Lady Chatterley's Lover* in 1960, allows it to change with the times. But its critics say the law is far too subjective. There are no rules explaining exactly what is obscene.

Certain sex acts, including buggery, torture and bestiality, would invariably be classed as obscene. But there are huge grey areas — explicit lesbian acts are tolerated more than those involving homosexual men.

Generally, close-up shots of genitalia are not permitted, but the duration of a scene and the context would also be taken into account. Videos showing simulated sex are permissible and would normally gain an 18 certificate.

Scenes of actual sex, not close-up shots, would qualify for a Restricted (R) certificate and could be sold only in licensed sex shops.

Because of the problems in prosecuting successfully, police often use the 1984 Video Recordings Act, which makes the possession of unclassified videos, with the intention to sell, illegal. Child protection laws are also used.

recent years, believing that his job is to classify rather than to censor; hence his decision to give certificates to films such as *Crush* and *Lolita*.

His report may anger the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, whom Mr Ferman accused of "playing to the gallery" this year when he called for a crackdown on pornography.

The Association of Chief Police Officers said it would welcome a review of pornography legislation, but cautioned against taking too liberal a line. Tim Brain, Gloucestershire Deputy Chief Constable and the association's spokesman on pornography, said:

"Since the introduction of the [1959] Obscene Publications Act, the law and technology have developed to a stage at which the legal position on pornography is unclear and makes effective enforcement difficult."

He added that the current definition of "likely to deprave and corrupt" was too subjective, and should be revised. He also warned that some material could encourage paedophiles, and that the pornography industry could lead to coercion and exploitation of vulnerable individuals.

Leading article, page 19

# Soho cash registers ring out a belated welcome

PURVEYORS of what they like to call "explicit adult entertainment" welcomed the views of the retiring chief film censor.

Martin Reynolds, who has run a sex-video shop in Soho for three years, said: "A pity James Ferman did not admit the hypocrisy about sex years ago: it would have cleaned up the business. When are the authorities going to accept that a lot of law-abiding people like to watch videos of adults having sex?"

The sex industry is flourishing and Mr Ferman's opinion that hardcore pornography should be legalised can only make entrepreneurs such as Mr Reynolds richer still. He does not deny this, but points out that, if hardcore pornography were legalised and freely on sale, more people would buy it and its price would be half what it is today.

He says he sells between 30 and 50 tapes a day in "normal trading". His premises are unlicensed, but he still applies

"strict house rules. There are no videos involving children, violence, animals or hard drugs. We get couples as regular customers who have a healthy attitude to sex, but we also get the police and council inspectors for ever giving us grief."

Westminster City Council has been praised for trying to clean up the area. Seven video sex shops are facing closure in Soho and council inspectors routinely investigate what is on sale and confiscate videos in unlicensed premises.

Across the road from his shop, with its whitewashed windows, licensed outlets sell books and sex aids as well as films showing full frontal shots of heterosexual and gay models, but stop short of showing penetration or what judges still refer to as "unlawful sexual acts". In places such as Harmony, Mr Ferman has seen all 300 titles and given them 18 certificates.

One of Harmony's staff, giving his name only as

Michael, said: "Frankly, the censors are ripping off the public because these videos show nothing more graphic than you see on satellite TV or rent from your local Blockbusters."

He added: "It's simulated sex. Those who want paedophilia, bestiality or violent sex know where to go. They always have and always will."

Another unlicensed shop-owner said: "The council wants £23,000 to give me a licence. I sell hardcore but, according to the obscenity laws, it's legal. That doesn't stop the police raiding us all the time and spending days fast-forwarding their way through every film."

Fines for videos ruled as obscene by magistrates ranged from £2,000 to £5,000, he said. "Licensing hardcore films would mean the only place the depraved could find their videos would be through mail order from abroad. We are just providing a home entertainment service."

# Dixons

## FREE NATIONAL WEEKEND CALLS WITH one 2 one

**PRICE CHECK**  
PRICE - WE CAN'T BE BEATEN  
Every week, Dixons Price Check compares hundreds of prices in the national press, so that you KNOW you can't buy better!

**ERICSSON PH388 DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE**

- Up to 120 minutes talktime/24 hours standby time.
- 198 name and number memory.
- Caller identification.
- Built-in calculator.
- Fax and data compatible.

**FREE\* NATIONAL WEEKEND CALLS**

Dixons Deal

**£49.99\***

PLUS £35 CONNECTION

**NOKIA 1020 MOBILE PHONE**

- Up to 250 minutes talktime/100 hours standby time.
- 98 name and number memory.
- Backlit keypad and display.
- Caller identification.
- Charging time 55 minutes.
- Dedicated VoiceMail key.
- Via £29.99.
- HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

**£9.99\***

PLUS £35 CONNECTION

**NOKIA 8146 DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE**

- Up to 90 minutes talktime/100 hours standby time.
- 224 name and number memory.
- Caller identification.
- Easy access to VoiceMail.
- Fax and data compatible.
- Charging time 60 minutes.
- Via £29.99.
- HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

**£79.99\***

PLUS £35 CONNECTION

**ERICSSON PF768 DIGITAL MOBILE PHONE**

- Up to 220 minutes talktime/48 hours standby time.
- 99 name and number memory.
- Caller identification.
- Fax and data compatible.
- One touch access to VoiceMail.
- Charging time 90 minutes.
- Via £29.99.
- HURRY! LIMITED STOCKS

**£99.99\***

PLUS £35 CONNECTION

## COME TO LONDON THE CHANGE WILL DO YOU GOOD

BED & BREAKFAST FROM ONLY

**£35**

PER PERSON PER NIGHT

From the changing of the guard to the royal parks and gardens, from the pavement cafes and bars to the historic buildings, landmarks and monuments, the capital of 'Cool Britannia' is the perfect destination for a short summer break.

And a Forte hotel is the perfect place to stay.

**LUNCH OR DINNER ONLY £9.95**

Salmon, strawberries and champagne are the "must" in summer come along to any London Forte hotel during August to enjoy this offer.

| Location                    | Star rating | Discounted price |
|-----------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| The Grosvenor               | 4           | £35              |
| Posthouse Bloomsbury        | 3           | £45              |
| Posthouse Hampstead         | 3           | £45              |
| Posthouse Regent's Park     | 3           | £45              |
| Posthouse Kensington        | 3           | £45              |
| Hotel Russell               | 3           | £55              |
| The Strand Palace           | 3           | £55              |
| The Cavendish               | 4           | £55              |
| Staircase                   | 4           | £55              |
| The Cumberland              | 4           | £55              |
| Le Meridien Waldorf Astoria | 5           | £80              |
| Spencer House               | 5           | £80              |
| Le Meridien Piccadilly      | 5           | £80              |
| Le Meridien Heathrow        | 5           | £80              |
| Great Innsbruck             | 4           | £45              |
| The Grosvenor               | 4           | £45              |
| Posthouse Grosvenor         | 4           | £45              |
| Le Meridien Grosvenor       | 4           | £45              |

Offer available until 5 September 1998  
\*No ensuite facilities. \*\*Dinner, bed and breakfast.

Terms and Conditions: Prices are per person, per night including accommodation, full breakfast and a 10% discount on 2 adults sharing a double room. Prices represent discount against net and full English breakfast. Subject to availability with a limited number of rooms available at this time. Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Single supplement may apply. Food offer not available at Grosvenor House.

**FORTE** MERIDIEN Posthouse SIGNATURE HOTELS

To book call Forte National Reservations on **0345 40 40 40**

her's  
in arm  
ine led  
wnfall  
atchi  
ative  
hard takes  
n debate



# Teacher's holiday job as an armed robber

A YOUNG mathematics teacher at a girls' grammar school took up armed robbery for the Easter holidays. Andrew Rogers was unlikely to be a suspect for the sudden series of hold-ups at off-licences, so it was just as well that his mother finally took him to a police station to confess.

The small, bespectacled teacher was regarded as having impeccable good character, a court was told yesterday as he was jailed for four years. Rogers, 26, was a member of the Salvation Army and did not drink or smoke. He had accrued debts from his student years, but he was so determined to pay them off properly that he had taken on an early morning cleaning job at a supermarket to earn extra money before classes.

All that changed on April 2 in Limpsfield, Surrey, when he successfully forced a member of staff to hand over cash as he pointed his airgun at her. Realising that off-licences were sparsely staffed between 8 and 9 o'clock in the evening, his subsequent raids followed

## Deborah Colcutt on an unlikely criminal from the Salvation Army. Jailed after confessing to his family

a similar pattern until April 25, bringing him a total of £1,000.

Rogers, who taught at the award-winning Weald of Kent Girls' School, gave himself up after a member of staff at Umwins in Guildford grabbed a lump hammer from beneath the counter and chased him down the road. The confrontation made him cry.

The teacher, who lived near the school in Tonbridge, pleaded guilty to six charges of armed robbery and possessing a firearm at Maidstone Crown Court. Isobel Ascheron, for the prosecution, said: "The off-licence staff said in their statements that this was a terrifying incident for all of them. Mary said they truly believed they would be shot if not beaten."

Rogers, concealing his face with either a hood or his scarf

held up five branches of Hewings and one branch of Victoria Wine in Kent, Surrey and Sussex, managing to escape with cash on all but the last occasion. She told the court: "This is a man of otherwise impeccable good character, without any of the expected training through minor theft and violence before reaching the heights of armed robbery."

Andrew Rodger, for Rogers, said: "Talking to his mother, she said he was in a permanent state of exhaustion and tension. He sought to relieve that by attending a snooker hall and club. He became involved in gambling, playing the fruit machines, and this only increased the anxiety in a man who does not drink or smoke."

He was getting up at 4.30am to start his cleaning job at

Sainsbury's. Finally, Rogers he turned to robbery to reduce his £13,000 debts. "He found himself being chased down the road by the hammer. Reality dawned. It shocked him and broke the spell, and he went to his brother. He was crying. He confessed."

His mother, Barbara, who was in court yesterday with a family friend, persuaded Rogers to give himself up. He walked up to the front desk of Tonbridge Police Station with his mother and stepfather, and handed over the airgun.

Mr Rodger said: "His life hangs in tatters, a life he has earned through industry and application. This is a defendant who truly deserves the mercy of this court."

The teacher's contract with the £27-pupil school was terminated at the beginning of June. He had worked there since September 1996. A spokesman for Kent County Council Education Authority said: "He was a valued member of staff. There were never any complaints about his work. This came as a real shock to the school."



Andrew Rogers with his mother, Barbara, yesterday. She took him to the police to confess to the robberies

# Cocaine led to downfall of Saatchi executive

AN ADVERTISING executive became an accomplished deceiver in her private life after becoming addicted to cocaine. The long downfall of Stephanie Whitworth led yesterday to a one-year prison sentence for defrauding friends to pay for her drug habit.

Whitworth, 45, once earned a six-figure salary as an account director with Saatchi & Saatchi, Gloucester Crown Court was told. She had since lost her career and custody of her three children, and had 19 convictions including dishonesty, theft and handling stolen goods. Her latest offence was to persuade friends to give her £8,250, saying that she would invest it for them.

Judge Simon Darvill Smith said that her drift into offending was the result of her "hedonistic" lifestyle in the 1980s, and told her: "Your antecedent history reveals that you are a professional deceiver, skilled in obtaining money from other people for your own gain. You have talent and intelligence and it is a shame you do not use them properly."

Charles Row, for Whitworth, said: "This is a woman who has fallen from a great height. She had all the trappings of an executive lifestyle and children, she had a nice and domestic staff." However, her first husband introduced her to cocaine and she developed a habit she could not control, he said.

"A great deal of the money she was earning was spent on drink and drugs. She became

increasingly unhappy and, as the marriage progressed, she was subjected to physical domestic violence." They moved to Cheshire in 1991, where Whitworth worked for Yellow Pages and Thomson Directories, reaching the position of regional manager. She then set up her own business with financial help from her father, but it failed.

Shortly afterwards her father died and her husband left her. She was left supporting her children and other relatives who also relied on her. The pressures were enormous. She turned to crack as a crutch and a release. Her first criminal offence was committed on the Wirral in 1991, and her husband was given custody of the children.

The prosecution said Whitworth was staying in Gloucester when she was befriended by Michaela Zimmerman. Whitworth told her that she had a friend in London in the loan business who could return large interest on capital. Miss Zimmerman handed her £250 for investment and a friend, Brian Chevis, provided more. They never saw their money again. Whitworth, of Notting Hill, West London, admitted three counts of deception.

Saatchi and Saatchi, which is now under new management, said it had no record of Whitworth's employment. "Our records only go back ten years and it may be that she worked for us before that time or has subsequently changed her name."

# Woodward takes part in TV debate

LOUISE WOODWARD has accepted an invitation to appear at the Edinburgh Television Festival.

The former au pair, who was convicted of the manslaughter of baby Matthew Eappen in the United States, is to take part in a debate on cameras in court. Ruth Pitt, Granada's head of documentaries and this year's advisory chairman of the festival, said that, as the only British woman to have her trial televised across the world, she had a unique perspective.

She added: "I'm not interested in her guilt or innocence. She is uniquely placed to tell the story of having your story beamed around the world. Louise isn't there to be put on trial by the media. The media is being put on trial by the session."

Other members of the panel will include Barry Sheckel, one of Miss Woodward's defence lawyers; Nick Castle, who has filmed Scottish court cases; and Nick Pollard from

Woodward: she will discuss televised trials

Sky News, which broadcast the Woodward trial. Ms Pitt said: "We are asking ourselves how the media deal with these cases and how the British media may deal with these kind of cases. If British trials are ever televised."

She said Miss Woodward would receive no payment. The debate, on August 31, will be judged by a "jury" of 12 members of the public.

Edinburgh Fringe, page 33

# Treat your new car to a trip to Halfords.

**Pamper it.**

Free Rear Mats (normally £12.99) when you buy Profile Velour Front Mats. £24.99 special packs only.

Save 25% on selected Seat Covers. New Stockholm (Plus) £29.99 £22.49

**Look after it.**

Save 20% on selected Waxoyl and Hammerite Rust Prevention. Waxoyl 5 Litre Clear: £14.99 Hammerite Stone Chip Black Aerosol: £4.39

Save up to £10 on Stoplock Security. Stoplock Pro. Save £10 £49.99 £39.99

**Personalise it.**

Number Plates from £7.99, buy one and get the second half-price. Personal messages put on your plate in-store.

High performance Brilliance bulbs £9.99 Upgrade your headlights to give 30% brighter light.

**Get to know it.**

Essential Guides £9.99 Easy to use, step by step guide to basic car maintenance. Includes £20 worth of vouchers for selected car accessories.

**HALFORDS WE GO THE EXTRA MILE.**

CALL 0245 626 625 FOR YOUR NEAREST SUPERSTORE. SUPERSTORES OPEN 9AM-6PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM-6PM WEEKENDS. CHECK HIGH STREET STORE TIMES LOCALLY. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. OFFERS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. THE PRICES APPLY ONLY TO THE MADISON 13. IF YOU COULD HAVE BOUGHT THE SAME PRODUCT CHEAPER LOCALLY, CALL BACK WITHIN 7 DAYS OF PURCHASE AND WE WILL WILLINGLY REFUND THE DIFFERENCE. COMPETITOR'S PRICE MUST BE AVAILABLE TO ANY CUSTOMER. HALFORDS LIMITED, ICKFIELD STREET DRIVE, WASHFORD WEST, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B96

Obscenity laws make prosecution difficult

registers ring d welcome





Gurpreet Singh Mundy after the settlement yesterday

# Princess's designer settles race claim

A FASHION house that designed clothes for Diana, Princess of Wales, agreed yesterday to pay a substantial sum to a van driver over allegations of racial discrimination.

GW Ltd, which is owned by Amanda Wakeley, reached an estimated £4,000 settlement with Gurpreet Singh Mundy, a former employee, who accused the company of victimisation.

Ms Wakeley, who has clothed Elizabeth Hurley, Marie Helvin and Darcy Bussell, made a number of outfits for the Princess, including the suit that she wore in 1993 when she appealed for privacy and announced that she was withdrawing from much of her public life.

Mr Mundy is also believed to have received an apology over allegations that Neil Gillon, the company chairman and Miss Wakeley's husband, used the word "Paki" while giving him instructions.

After the confidential settlement, which was reached as the two parties were due to meet at an industrial tribunal in Central London, an agreed statement was read out by Afzal Chowdhury, Mr Mundy's solicitor. It said: "Mr G.S. Mundy and GW Ltd, trading as Amanda Wakeley, have

## Claudia Joseph on the case of the van driver who accused Amanda Wakeley's fashion firm of victimisation

settled Mr Mundy's complaint of alleged race discrimination and alleged victimisation amicably on confidential terms with no admission of liability by GW Ltd."

As he left the tribunal, Mr Mundy, 27, of Manor Park, East London, a co-ordinator for the Stephen Lawrence inquiry, said: "I am very, very happy." He now works for Inquest, the pressure group for families of people who have died in custody.

He brought his case to the tribunal after being fired from his £23-a-week job last October. He claimed in preliminary papers that he was on his way to collect some clothes from a supplier last September when Mr Gillon told him that the van was parked outside "the Paki shop". He

complained to his immediate supervisor and to Mr Gillon before going on holiday with his family to India, where he was born. When he returned in October, six weeks after beginning the job, he was fired.

Yesterday Mr Mundy, who faced possession proceedings because he was could not meet his mortgage payments after losing his job, refused to reveal details of the agreement.

But before the hearing his lawyers disclosed that they were seeking £9,000 in compensation for loss of earnings and £5,000 for the alleged racial offence as well as an apology. Afzal Chowdhury, his solicitor, said the important issue was not the money, but to show that "racist language in the workplace is unacceptable". Afterwards the lawyers said they were happy with the settlement and that Mr Mundy's home was "secure".

GW is believed to have negotiated a staggered settlement to guarantee that details of the agreement remained confidential.

Miss Wakeley, a former model and pupil at Cheltenham Ladies' College, started her own label in 1990. She was not at yesterday's hearing. Her husband, a former property developer from Australia, refused to comment.



Amanda Wakeley: her firm paid an estimated £4,000



To you, your old glasses are worth up to £50. To Moses, they're priceless.

Bring your old glasses to Dollond & Aitchison and you could save up to £50 off a new pair. And you won't be the only person to benefit from our offer. That's because Help the Aged has joined forces with our World in Sight appeal, collecting used

spectacles in the UK, and distributing them to needy people in developing countries. So far over 500,000 have benefited in this way. Which means when we give you money off your new glasses, you could give someone a new lease of life.



OFFERS AVAILABLE FROM 15th SEPTEMBER 1998. EXCLUDING SELECTED RANGES. SEE IN STORE FOR FULL DETAILS. HELP THE AGED, REGISTERED CHARITY No. 272786. www.dollond.co.uk

## Essence of cow gives flies the brush-off

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

BRITISH scientists have isolated "essence of cow", a chemical produced by some cows to discourage the attention of flies. They hope that one day it may be used as an environmentally friendly way of protecting the beasts from flies, which, apart from irritating them, can spread diseases. According to Lester Wadhams, of the Institute for Arable Crops Research, at Rothamsted, Hertfordshire: "While some cows may have hundreds of flies around them, others have none."

To discover the secret, scientists at Rothamsted, in collaboration with the University of Zaragoza, Spain, drew air from around a cow using a giant pump. The air was passed through absorbent polymers, which soaked up the volatile materials. These were then extracted and tested using fibres to whose antennae miniature electrodes had been attached. Very low levels of one particular compound, attached in sachets to cows in a Danish field, led to "a dramatic decrease in fly levels", Dr Wadhams says. The results of the research are reported in *New Scientist*.

## Locals arm themselves against freed mink

By Adrian Lee

THE release of thousands of mink by animal rights extremists has sent demand for guns and ammunition soaring.

A gunsmith in Ringwood, Hampshire, where more than 2,000 of the animals are set on the loose, has sold 25,000 air pellets in two days. Demand for air rifles had also increased. Geoff Withshire of Lambert and Withshire said: "There's quite a panic going on, it's like mink fever. We've been really busy. Nine out of ten people coming into the shop have had problems with their guns."

The release of thousands of mink by animal rights extremists has sent demand for guns and ammunition soaring. A gunsmith in Ringwood, Hampshire, where more than 2,000 of the animals are set on the loose, has sold 25,000 air pellets in two days. Demand for air rifles had also increased. Geoff Withshire of Lambert and Withshire said: "There's quite a panic going on, it's like mink fever. We've been really busy. Nine out of ten people coming into the shop have had problems with their guns."

# £25 CASH BACK

WHEN YOU CONNECT WITH GIAL-A-PHONE



**FREE CASIO PERSONAL ORGANISER**

**FREE 15 MINUTES OF CALLS PER MONTH**

**FREE ERICSSON GIAL-A-PHONE DIGITAL PHONE**

**FREE PORTABLE HANDSET WITH CHARGER**

**FREE LEATHER CARRY CASE WITH CAR ADAPTOR**

**FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY**

**ERICSSON GIAL-A-PHONE**

2P

**vodafone**

0800 00 00 77 DIAL-A-PHONE



AUGUST 13 1998  
Obscenity  
laws make  
prosecution  
difficult

By Andrew Law  
The Home Office has announced that it will be prosecuting a number of pornographers who have been found guilty of producing obscene material. The move is seen as a significant step in the fight against the distribution of indecent images of children. The Home Office has said that it will be using the new provisions of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 to prosecute those who produce or distribute such material. The new law allows for the prosecution of those who produce or distribute indecent images of children, even if the images are not of a sexual nature. The Home Office has said that it will be using the new provisions to prosecute those who produce or distribute such material. The new law allows for the prosecution of those who produce or distribute indecent images of children, even if the images are not of a sexual nature.

It's time  
to come



ON GAS BILLS  
WITH GAS

...of our customers save around 15%  
...an average of 10% by paying promptly.  
...KEEPING PRICES ON LOW.

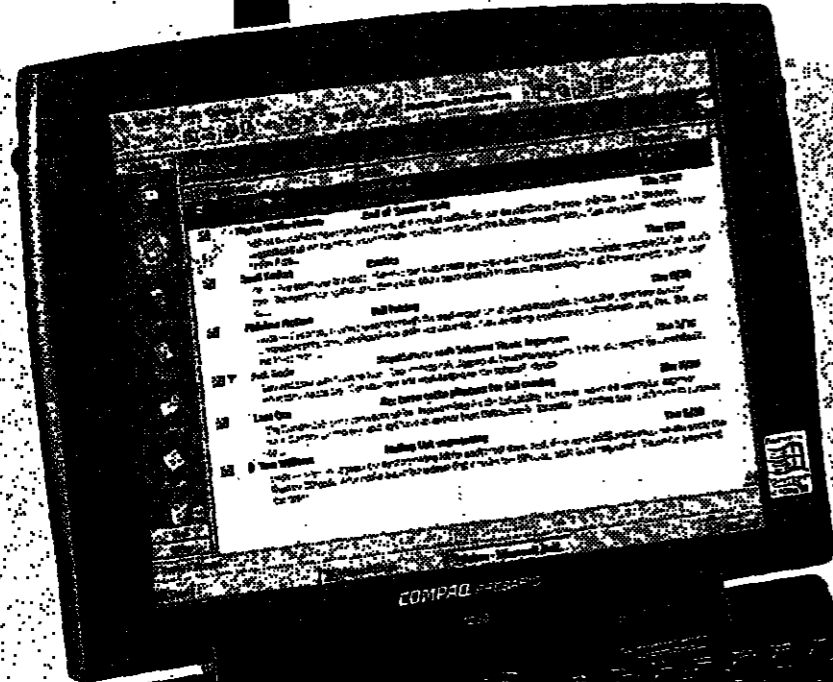
**British Gas**  
Home Energy

\*Gas savings compare payment by monthly direct debit to cash/cheque paid later than 10 days after the bill date on an annual consumption of 16,850 kWh. †Based on paying all four quarterly bills (cash/cheque only) within 10 days of the bill issue date on an annual consumption of 16,850 kWh.





# Only at PC World, a printer & carrycase with a Compaq laptop PC



**FREE LOTUS SMARTSUITE '97'**

Integrated Software Package including Word Processing & Spreadsheet applications. Usual Price £99.99.

**BUILT-IN MODEM**

Superfast integrated 56k modem provides high speed communications and fast Internet access.

**HPA DISPLAY**

Exceptional performance with a faster response time than conventional dual scan panels.

**PORTABLE PRINTER**

Top quality Canon BJC80 for printing on the move. Light, compact and easy to use.

## COMPAQ LAPTOP PC & PRINTER & CARRYCASE

233MHz Cyrix Media GX MMX™ Enhanced Processor

- 32Mb SyncDRAM ● 2.1Gb hard disk
- 12.1" HPA colour display
- 24 x multimedia ● 56k modem
- Windows '98 upgrade\* ● MS Works, Encarta '98, MS Football and more.

MODEL: Presario 1230. (PC only price £1299)

PLUS Canon BJC80 Portable Inkjet Printer

PLUS Targus Universal Deluxe Carry Case.

Total Separate Selling Price £1603.99.

**PACKAGE PRICE** **SAVE OVER £200**

**£1399** INC VAT

12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\*

EVERYTHING FOR MOBILE COMPUTING

**LATEST PORTABLE PCs AT GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES with FREE Lotus Smartsuite '97'**

**TOSHIBA**  
200MHz Intel Pentium™ Processor with MMX™ Technology  
32MB RAM, 2GB hard disk, 12.1" Dual Scan colour display. Fully integrated 16 x multimedia, 24x graphics. Windows '95. Windows '98 upgrade\*  
Was £2499. £1899  
MODEL: Satellite 3100CS. **SAVE £600** **£1099** **INC VAT**

**SONY VAIO**  
233MHz Intel Pentium™ Processor with MMX™ Technology  
32MB SDRAM, 2.1Gb hard disk, 512k cache, 12.1" HPA colour display, 24 x multimedia 36x 4-way PC card modem, 24x 3D Graphics. Windows '95. Sony video and imaging software.  
MODEL: VAIO PCG-732. **SAVE £400** **£1499** **INC VAT**

**PACKAGE OPTION**  
**SONY VAIO**  
233MHz Intel Pentium™ Processor with MMX™ Technology (as above)  
PLUS Canon BJC80 Portable Inkjet Printer. Usual Price £199.  
PLUS Targus Universal Deluxe Carry Case. Usual Price £99.  
**PACKAGE PRICE** **SAVE £200** **£1599** **INC VAT**

**TOSHIBA**  
233MHz Intel Pentium™ Processor with MMX™ Technology  
32MB RAM, 3.5GB hard disk, 12.1" TFT colour display, 34 x multimedia, 24x graphics. Windows '95. Windows '98 upgrade\*  
Was £2799. £2199  
MODEL: Satellite 3200CS. **SAVE £600** **£1699** **INC VAT**

**COMPAQ**  
233MHz AMD K6 MMX™ Enhanced Processor  
48MB SDRAM, 3.2Gb hard disk, 12.1" TFT colour display, 34 x multimedia, 56k modem. Windows '95 upgrade\*. MS Works, Encarta '98, MS Football and more.  
Was £1999.  
MODEL: Presario 1833. **SAVE £400** **£1799** **INC VAT**

**TOSHIBA**  
266MHz Intel Pentium™ II Processor  
32MB RAM, 3.8Gb hard disk, 13.3" TFT colour display, 20 x multimedia, 24x graphics. Windows '95. Windows '98 upgrade\*  
Was £2999.  
MODEL: Satellite Pro 4900CT. **SAVE £400** **£2599** **INC VAT**

**SONY VAIO**  
233MHz Intel Pentium™ Processor with MMX™ Technology  
32MB SDRAM, 2.1Gb hard disk, 512k cache memory, 12.1" TFT colour display, 24 x multimedia, 56k 4-way PC card modem, 24x 3D Graphics. Windows '95.  
MODEL: VAIO PCG-732. **SAVE £400** **£1799** **INC VAT**

**TOSHIBA**  
233MHz Intel Pentium™ II Processor  
32MB RAM, 3.8Gb hard disk, 12.1" TFT colour display, 20 x multimedia, Windows '95.  
MODEL: Satellite Pro 4900 CT. **NEW £2199** **INC VAT**

**TOSHIBA**  
266MHz Intel Pentium™ II Processor  
32MB RAM, 3.8Gb hard disk, 13.3" TFT colour display, 20 x multimedia, 24x graphics. Windows '95. Windows '98 upgrade\*  
Was £2999.  
MODEL: Satellite Pro 4900CT. **SAVE £400** **£2599** **INC VAT**

**12 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION\***  
WITH NO DEPOSIT ON ALL PRODUCTS OVER £250

\*Interest is Interest Free if repaid in full before, or with the 12th monthly payment. Orders are as follows: 6 months for products £250-£999; 9 months for products £1000-£1999; 12 months for products over £2000. Typical example: Cash price £1500. No deposit. 11 monthly payments of £50.71. Balance of £842.19 to be paid before or with 12th payment. 0% interest. Total paid £1500.

SPREAD THE COST WITH 12 MONTHLY PAYMENTS  
Typical example: If balance is not settled before the 12 month option period. Cash price £1500. 48 monthly payments of £36.71. Total amount paid £2348.08. All loans subject to status. **29.9%**

- FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE CALL 0990 464 464**
- |           |         |            |        |            |               |
|-----------|---------|------------|--------|------------|---------------|
| ANDOVER   | BRISTOL | GLoucester | Leeds  | Sheff      | Wolverhampton |
| Barnsley  | Cardiff | Coventry   | Derby  | Exeter     | Gloucester    |
| Harrogate | Leeds   | Leicester  | London | Manchester | Nottingham    |
| Reading   | Sheff   | Sheff      | Sheff  | Sheff      | Sheff         |
| Sheff     | Sheff   | Sheff      | Sheff  | Sheff      | Sheff         |

**PC WORLD**  
THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE

# Rail regulator calls time on late trains

Services are at worst point since privatisation, writes Arthur Leathley

TRAIN companies were ordered yesterday to improve punctuality immediately, after new figures showed a sharp increase in late services. Some of the biggest slumps in performance since rail privatisation and a widespread fall in passenger satisfaction were reported.

All but three of the 25 train operators have disclosed increases in late-running trains. Several also recorded more cancellations, partly because of driver shortages.

Figures released by John O'Brien, the Rail Franchising Director, show that 17 companies have allowed delays to increase on all their routes in the past year. Five report a mixture of improvements and deteriorations and three have improved all their services.

Mr O'Brien, who was criticised last month by MPs for being "too easily satisfied" with some companies' performance, said yesterday that the latest figures "continue to paint a very unsatisfactory picture of performance as a whole, with year-on-year punctuality continuing to decline".

He has demanded reports from all operators on the measures they are taking to improve services. Companies that have performed worst have been told to act "with particular urgency" and will

## CLASS DISTINCTION ANGERS UNION

UNION leaders have criticised Virgin Rail for allowing passengers in overcrowded carriages on standard class fares to be upgraded to first class. Arthur Leathley writes. RMT officials say they, because upgrading will not apply to cheaper tickets, commuters will have to pay for passengers' appearances. Finally, Knappe, the union's general secretary, said: "If you pay the fare you can wear what you like, even if it is a shirt and a string vest. Why ask staff to discriminate? A discrimination suit to sue conductors on the West Coast Main Line service suggests that some passengers should be upgraded on the best services. This should be carried out by choosing and inviting suitable customers into the first-class accommodation, that is, inviting those who will fit best the first-class environment, eg. full standard ticket holders."

have to involve him in decisions taken to reduce delays and cancellations.

The delays are increasingly being caused by the train operators, rather than by Railtrack, the track and signalling company. Railtrack accepts responsibility for some 55 per cent of delays, compared with 70 per cent two years ago. Mr O'Brien said that the improvement "has not yet been matched by all train operators".

Among the companies showing the biggest falls in punctuality are Chiltern Railways, operating between Birmingham and London and once one of the best performers; Thames, serving the Cotswolds; Cardiff Railways; and

Wales and West, operating in South Wales and the West Country.

In the 12 months ending in June, Chiltern ran one in ten trains late, against one in 20 a year ago. Thames runs one in six late, compared with one in 15 last year, and one in nine Cardiff services is late, against one in 16 a year ago. Wales and West splits its figures into six routes and all have performed worse. In the Avon area, its performance has slipped from one in ten trains running late to almost one in six.

North Western Trains, which has been threatened with legal action because of deteriorations in services, reports that all eight of its routes

are suffering more delays. The company received £300,000 in bonuses for punctuality under the performance formula, but Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority, which subsidises the company by £60 million a year, is threatening to sue to recover earlier payments because of what it described as atrocious services.

Virgin Trains, which has faced some of the strongest criticism since taking over the West Coast Main Line service last year, has continued to improve services on most of the London-Scotland route, although it still lags behind many operators.

Figures on reliability, which measure the number of cancellations, show that 33 routes declined, 21 were better and nine were constant.

The companies showing timekeeping improvements on all routes were ScotRail, Thameslink, which runs from Bedford to Brighton, and Merseyrail Electric. Companies showing improvements on most routes were Virgin's West Coast line, Silverlink in North London and Central Trains in the Midlands.

Passenger surveys show lower satisfaction on issues ranging from delays to accuracy of station information and the price of tickets.

# Poet's last wishes are granted — 31 years later



The oak cross was erected on Tuesday

BY AUDREY MAGEE  
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

PATRICK KAVANAGH, the celebrated Irish poet, has finally got his way nearly 31 years after he died.

Kavanagh, whose poetry championed the cause of the poor and oppressed in rural Ireland, had sought to be remembered modestly. "Commemorate me with no hero-courageous tomb, just a canal-bank seat for the passer-by," he wrote shortly before his death.

His wishes were ignored, however, and an elaborate headstone was erected on his grave in Inniskeen churchyard, Co Monaghan, by a commemoration committee some time in the 1960s.

Two days ago the headstone vanished, a simple oak cross and a small pile of stones was put in its place. The inscription on the cross reads: "And pray for him who walked apart on the hills loving life's miracles."

The poet's brother, Peter, a lecturer in the United States who is currently in Ireland on holiday, was roused to have been behind the swap — a charge that he denied yesterday. "It seems to have been taken away by spirits in the night, but I am glad to learn it has gone," he said. "Patrick



Kavanagh, who died in 1967, did not want a headstone

was the only great Catholic poet in Ireland and the memorial was a pagan monument and an insult to his memory."

Kavanagh was a prominent member of the 1950s Dublin literary set that spent much of its time in the city's pubs. His drinking partners included Brendan Behan and Flann O'Brien.

On his death on November 30, 1967, aged 63, a simple cross was placed on his grave. But the commemoration committee did not think it grand enough and replaced it with the headstone. However, the Dublin authorities fulfilled the poet's wishes and placed a bench along the banks of the Grand Canal.

Peter Murphy, chairman of the Kavanagh Society, said: "People don't want to say anything that would inflame the situation further."

# Cough bug linked with Alzheimer's

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A COMMON bug spread by coughs and sneezes may trigger Alzheimer's disease, American scientists have found the bacterium in the brains of 17 out of 19 patients who had Alzheimer's, but in only one out of 19 people of the same age who died of other causes.

*Chlamydia pneumoniae* infects half the population by the age of 20 without causing apparent illness. So it cannot be the sole cause of the disease, or many more people would suffer from it. But Alan Hudson and his colleagues at Wayne State University, New York, suspect it that may be a contributory factor.

He point out that the parts of the brain where the bacterium was found, the hippocampus and the temporal cortex, are those most damaged by

Alzheimer's. If the link is proved, it could mean that treatment with an antibiotic to destroy the bacterium could prevent the disease.

There has already been a suggestion that *Chlamydia* is linked to heart disease, since it is found more often in people who suffer from that than in healthy people. But again, because the bacterium is so common, it alone cannot be the cause of heart conditions.

Dr Hudson managed to culture *Chlamydia* from two of the affected Alzheimer's disease brains, showing that it was still alive. He told *New Scientist* that he suspects that the bacterium contributes to the inflammation which is seen in the brains of patients who suffered from Alzheimer's disease.

# Cut-price airline takes the high road

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GO, British Airways' re-titled airline, launched its first domestic service yesterday with three daily flights to Edinburgh from its base at Stansted airport.

The new route, offering fares of less than half the cost of services run by the parent company, promises to attract business passengers and other carriers who are making the most of the buoyant domestic market, including EasyJet and Air UK.

The airline also announced new services to Bologna, a route likely to be heavily dependent on leisure passengers, starting on September 8. Go, launched in May, currently flies to Rome, Milan, Copenhagen and Lisbon. The return fare to Edinburgh will range from £70 to £160; this compares with established standard fares of up to £300. Return fares to Bologna start at £100.

# Get into great value home insurance

Your home has up to 4 bedrooms.

With contents worth up to £35,000.

Your home is occupied solely by you and your family.

You've not made a home insurance claim in the last three years.

You could be in for some good news! Call Commercial Union free and see if you could make big savings on home insurance.

**COMMERCIAL UNION**

Motor and Home Insurance

Call now for a FREE no-obligation quote Lines open 8am-9pm Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm Sat.

Please quote reference TR828

Your call may be recorded for quality control purposes

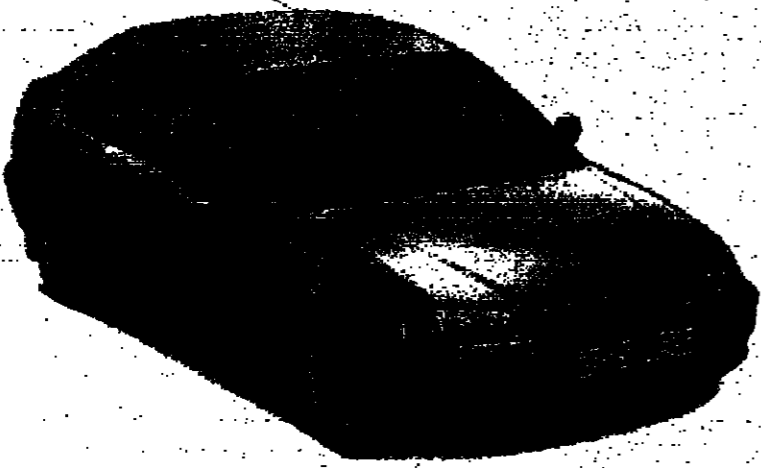
Or alternatively our URL is:

<http://www.commercial-union.co.uk/direct>

**0800 38 0800**



calls rains Arthur Leathley Cut-price airline takes the high road get into eat blue come insurance



# The air-conditioned Civic SE. Stay cool for only £12,495.

This summer you can buy a 1.4i Civic 5-door SE, with air conditioning, for just £12,495.

So not only can you keep the children from becoming hot cross bunnies, you can also be relaxed about the price.

Available in either Bakal Green or Titan Silver, the SE is cool on the outside, too.

In fact the only thing that's hot is the engine. Developing a sizzling 90bhp, it can nevertheless give you a remarkable 44mpg.

The power is complemented by race-bred double wishbone suspension, while power steering saves you getting overheated when parking.

To keep you safer, there are dual SRS airbags. To keep the car safer, there's an ECU engine immobiliser.

And you need only a fingertip to operate the electric front windows and the door mirrors.

No sweat. Furthermore, you can listen to your favourite music on a stereo radio/cassette player with both front and rear speakers.

But here's the really cool bit. If you buy before 31st August, we're offering 0% APR finance. Plus you get 1 year's free insurance.

For more information, call 0345 159 159 and see why the Civic SE is the best way to avoid getting hot and bothered this summer.

Technology you can enjoy, from Honda.



Model shown is the Civic 5-door SE. Total cash price £12,495. Includes £375 for delivery and van delivery, £25 first registration fee and £150 for 12 months' road tax. Other not available to limited companies. Offer only available on Civic 5-door special edition models purchased and registered between 1 June and 31 August 1998. Finance is available only to persons aged 18 or over subject to status. Information may be required in certain circumstances. Insurance subject to status. Full written conditions available on request. Price correct at time of publication. Model subject to availability. Government test consumption figures 23.7 mpg/9.5L per 100km; extra urban 44.1 mpg/10.1L per 100km; combined 32.7 mpg/7.5L per 100km. Price and information correct at time of going to press 13.08.98.



# Driver who killed sister in crash is sent to jail

By Shirley English

A DRINK-DRIVER killed her sister in a car crash when she drove the wrong way down a dual carriageway. Yesterday, despite pleas for leniency from her family, Frances Beech was jailed for 18 months.

Beech, 33, had admitted causing the death of her "best pal", Mary Murty, 36, by dangerous driving while under the influence of alcohol. Sheriff Robert Younger, sentencing her at Stirling Sheriff Court, also banned her from driving for seven years.

During the trial, the court was told that the two sisters had been inseparable since childhood. Both had three children. Beech, from Dunblane, had been a regular churchgoer and had a clean driving licence.

She had visited her sister's grave every week since the accident and was tortured by feelings of guilt, which had driven her to alcohol. She was scheduled to be sentenced last week, but the case was deferred when she turned up drunk.

On September 1 last year, the sisters had been drinking in the Stirling Arms Hotel in Dunblane. Beech had then driven through the town with her sister in the passenger seat. Approaching the A9, she had ignored a Keep Left sign and three No Entry signs, gone the wrong way down an

exit ramp and driven south against northbound traffic. She had not noticed the frantic warnings of other motorists and had travelled for almost half a mile before ploughing into a Mercedes-Benz. Her VW Golf had hit two other cars before coming to a halt.

Mrs Murty, also from Dunblane, was killed instantly. Two other drivers and Beech, who was understood to be two and a half times over the alcohol limit, were injured. Paul Burns, for Beech, said she had suffered a "living torment" since the crash and had separated from her husband. Her family had initially been divided over the tragedy, but were now united in that they had "no desire for vengeance". Being responsible for her sister's death was "a burden that she will carry with her to her own grave".

Sheriff Younger told her: "You have shown remorse for the terrible tragic consequences. You do have a need for help."

"The other side of that is that you did drive some distance on to the motorway and you were oblivious to obvious warnings. You continued to drive, causing great danger. Tragically, that also caused the death of your sister, to whom I accept you were very close."

Limited resources have meant that little of the archive has been studied, despite the importance of some of the material. The oldest piece of moving image shows the Gordon Highlanders marching through Aberdeen before leaving for the Boer War in 1899, only a few years after the birth of cinema.

The Scottish Film & Television Archive has been awarded £377,000 towards

cataloguing and restoring thousands of films that have been stored in its Glasgow premises since it began an appeal in 1976 for the public to donate material lying in attics and basements.

Janet McBain, the curator, said that the grant would enable the archive to carry out an emergency programme to copy original film, threatened by a chemical reaction known as vinegar syndrome — because of the smell emitted when old film canisters are opened.

Deterioration is so rapid that films affected will be lost within five years. "What is particularly alarming about it is that it is like a virus that can spread through a collection,"



Janet McBain with some of the 13,000 cans of film to be catalogued. Many films are threatened with deterioration from "vinegar syndrome"

## Scotland's film heritage saved by grant

Lottery gift of £377,000 will enable national archive to preserve 13,000 cans of film, writes Dalya Alberge

MORE than 13,000 cans of film, many of them filled with remarkable images of Scotland's cultural and social history over the past 100 years, are to be preserved and catalogued thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Limited resources have meant that little of the archive has been studied, despite the importance of some of the material. The oldest piece of moving image shows the Gordon Highlanders marching through Aberdeen before leaving for the Boer War in 1899, only a few years after the birth of cinema.

The Scottish Film & Television Archive has been awarded £377,000 towards

cataloguing and restoring thousands of films that have been stored in its Glasgow premises since it began an appeal in 1976 for the public to donate material lying in attics and basements.

Janet McBain, the curator, said that the grant would enable the archive to carry out an emergency programme to copy original film, threatened by a chemical reaction known as vinegar syndrome — because of the smell emitted when old film canisters are opened.

Deterioration is so rapid that films affected will be lost within five years. "What is particularly alarming about it is that it is like a virus that can spread through a collection,"



A still from the 1899 film of the Gordon Highlanders

she said. "We know we have it. We can smell it."

Ms McBain said that the Gordon Highlanders footage showed a small scruffy boy receiving a clout on his ear from a sergeant for getting in the way of the parade. "It is redolent of an era when we weren't so PC."

Such films, lasting little over a minute, would have been among perhaps ten that

people would pay a halfpenny to view in special booths. The hope is that more historic material will be found in a research project expected to last 2½ years.

Much of the material turned up in old cinemas, attics, factories, government agencies and libraries. The Gordon Highlanders film had come in even before the appeal was launched. An

anonymous individual gave it to the Scottish Film Council some time in the previous 30 years: the council kept it in a shed at the back of their offices, along with up to 500 other films.

All were eventually amalgamated with those that came in through the public appeal. "We were swamped; we have only a rough idea of what is in our vaults, so who knows what treasures we may unearth," Ms McBain said. "It is a very exciting prospect."

"The material includes promotional films for manufacturers, including one from 1913 advertising gentlemen's underwear. "It is surprising for its length, about 14 or 15 minutes, which in those days was a long film," she said.

Another shows postwar mining machinery. "It's fairly technical, but you see the conditions underground and the lack of safety," she said.

Film reviews, page 31

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Tourists get bargain on a plate

Motorists with foreign number plates are being allowed free parking in three towns while locals and British visitors pay up to £4 a day. The trial scheme is intended to encourage foreign tourists to stay longer in Arundel, Bognor and Littlehampton, West Sussex. A Bognor resident, Charles Etheridge, 34, a businessman, said: "It just isn't fair. It makes people who live here all year round very angry."

#### Wife-killer dies

A former cathedral verger who murdered his wife by dropping an electric heater into her bath has been found dead in a canal in Halifax. James Darling, 54, was jailed 20 years ago and released in the early 1990s. Police do not view his death as suspicious.

#### Lucky streak

A thief was caught with his £6,000 haul by his naked victim and a milkman, who chased him through the streets of Newcastle upon Tyne. Shaun McLaughlin, 18, was sentenced to 18 months in a young offender institution by the city's Crown Court.

#### Clarke threat

The Sri Lankan Government said it would close an investigation of Sir Arthur C. Clarke unless the *Sunday Mirror* handed over a tape of alleged evidence to support a story that the science-fiction writer had been a paedophile. Local inquiries found no evidence.

#### Dangerous dogs

Dogs can become lethal missiles in a crash if they are not strapped into cars properly, the AA has said. The organisation has started a campaign with the National Canine Defence League to urge drivers to use travel kennels or harnesses.

#### Bomb blown up

A 250 kilogram Second World War bomb was towed out to sea and blown up by the Royal Navy after it was unearthed during building work at Plymouth. Its discovery caused the postponement of the British National Fireworks Championships.



Frances Beech, left, and her "best pal", Mary Murty

With BT's special offer you can connect your business to ISDN from just £99.

Offer extended to 31/8/98  
**Freefone 0800 800 800**  
 or visit [www.isdn.bt.com](http://www.isdn.bt.com)

TIM11

Why not change the way we work? **BT**

In a flap with your bank?  
 Don't get mad, get £20

Open an Alliance Current Account and we'll give you £20 to help feather your own nest.

What's more, unlike other current accounts, there are no crazy overdraft charges, so switching to the Alliance Current Account could save you over £100 on a £200 overdraft.

The Alliance Current Account gives you access to your money at over 300 Alliance & Leicester branches, more than 14,000 LINK cash machines and nearly 20,000 post offices. So there's no more convenient way to bank.



COMPARE THE COST OF USING A £200 AUTHORISED OVERDRAFT FOR A YEAR

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Alliance Current Account | £24.00 |
| Barclays Bank Account    | £97.60 |
| Lloyds Bank Classic      | £97.60 |
| NatWest Current Account  | £95.60 |

These figures compare the cost of interest and charges you would pay to use an authorised £200 overdraft every month for a year.

The table shown compares our charges to other banks. We think you'll agree, ours make a lot more sense.

Moving to the Alliance Current Account is very easy with our free Switching Pack. So why not call today and fly the nest?

Common sense in a crazy world



To get £20, call free today 0500 95 95 95

Quoting ref N457

All applicants must be aged 18 years and over and agree to pay a minimum deposit of £200 into their account. Applications and overdrafts are subject to credit checks. Withdrawal requests are available on request. Free switching when in credit. 5.0% gross p.a. paid on credit balances of £5,000 and over. Interest rates are variable. Rates quoted apply to authorised overdrafts. To qualify for the £20 offer, you must open your account within 2 months of the opening date. For security and banking purposes telephone calls between you and Alliance & Leicester or its subsidiaries may be recorded or monitored. Alliance & Leicester PLC, Registered Office, 49 Park Lane, London, W1Y 6DZ. Interest rates and charges quoted in Moneyfacts August 98 at Halifax Building Society Branch Account 1.45% per month (18.2% variable) with monthly charges of £5. Lloyds Classic - 1.45% EAR (18.2% variable) monthly fee £5. NatWest 1.30% EAR (17.0% variable) monthly fee £5. Alliance Current Account rate of 0.75% per month (9.0% EAR) and no monthly fee. All information correct at time of going to press (August 98).

# Science blows hot and cold on climate threat

## Nigel Hawkes reports on conflicting evidence over global warming

AMERICAN scientists claim to have resolved one of the biggest puzzles over global warming. They say that evidence from satellites suggesting that the atmosphere is cooling, rather than warming, is the result of an error.

The satellite scientists acknowledge the error, but say that it makes no difference because they have found another error that cancels it out. They claim that, once both corrections are incorporated into the data, the atmosphere really is cooling — and so the puzzle remains.

US weather satellites have measured the temperature of the atmosphere since 1979 and, in contrast to observations at ground-level, have shown a small decline. This has cast doubt over whether global warming is actually happening, and has been used by critics of the Global Climate Treaty.

But according to the new analysis, reported in *Nature*, the satellite data is wrong because it fails to take account of the slow decay of the satellites' orbits, which brings

them slightly closer to Earth every year. The decline is small — three quarters of a mile a year — but it makes a significant difference, report Frank Wentz and Matthias Schabel, of Remote Sensing Systems, a company based in Santa Rosa, California.

When the satellite is looking straight down, the annual change in height makes virtually no difference to the

accuracy of its thermometers. They measure the temperature of the atmosphere by detecting microwave radiation emitted by oxygen atoms — the hotter the atoms, the stronger the radiation.

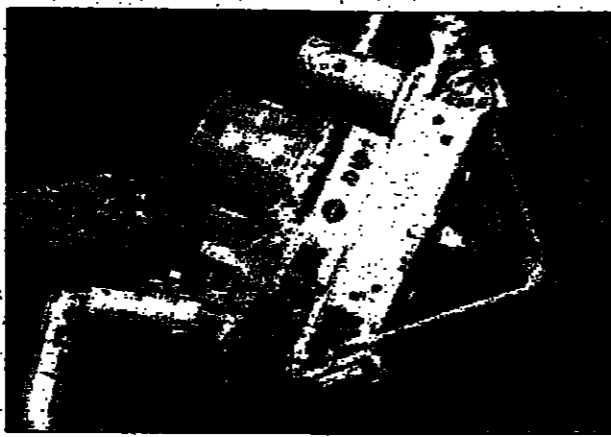
But when the instruments are looking sideways, towards the edge of the Earth, the angle of view matters. Small changes in that angle, caused by the decay of the orbit, can

have significant effects on the temperature recorded.

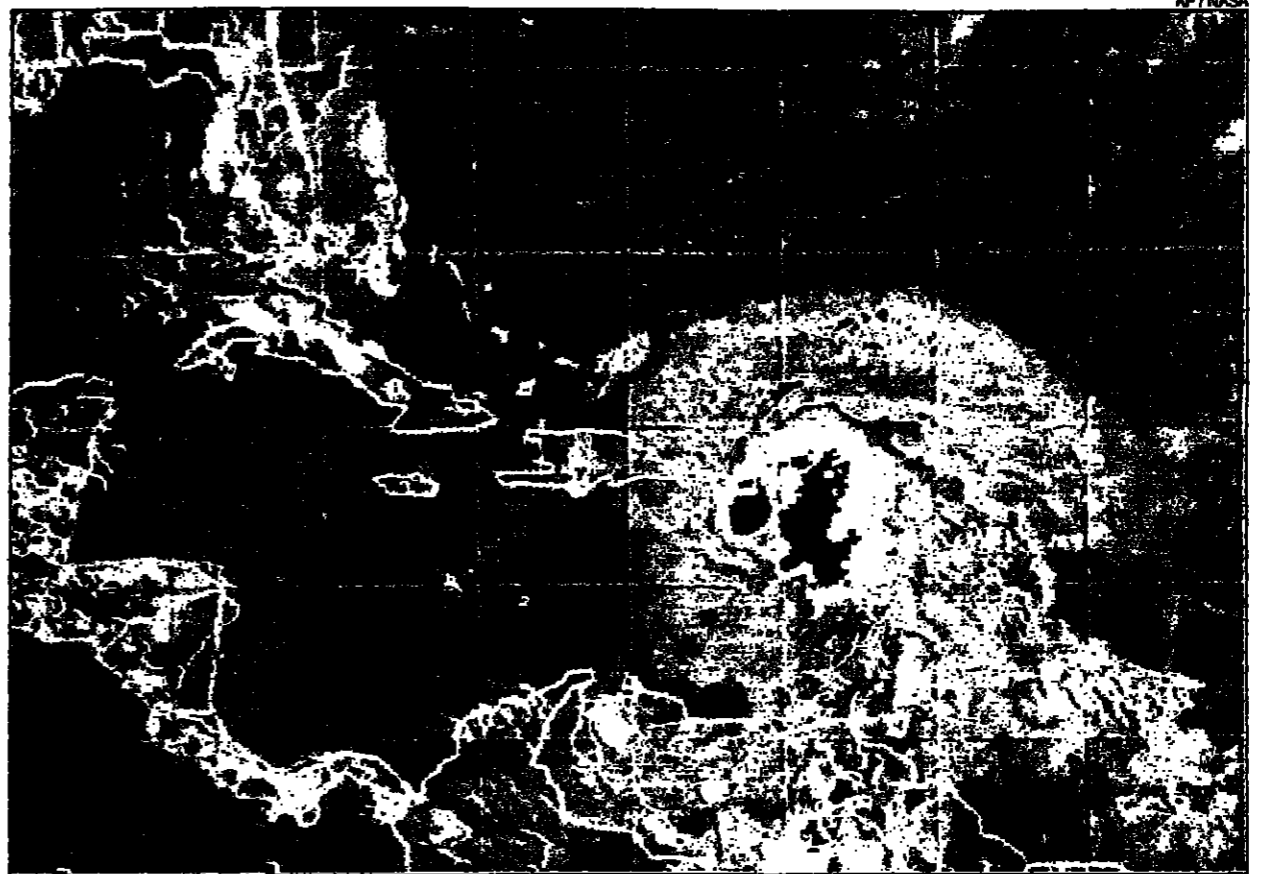
When allowances are made for these effects, the two scientists find that, rather than showing a decline in temperature in the lower troposphere of 0.05C per decade, the satellites show an increase of 0.07C per decade. While this is only half the rate of increase observed at the surface, it removes an anomaly in the satellite measurements, which had shown warming at some levels of the troposphere and cooling at other levels, in conflict with climatologists' expectations.

John Christy, of the University of Huntsville in Alabama, one of the scientists responsible for measuring the satellite temperatures, concedes that the decay theory is right. But he says that, on re-examining the data, he has found two other sources of error that, by coincidence, cancel out the effects of orbital decay.

These errors are caused by the slow movement of the orbit, which means that the satellites do not cross the Equator at the same time



A weather satellite being deployed. The accuracy of data depends on how instruments are angled at Earth



Satellite image of a hurricane. Temperature readings from the atmosphere suggest the Earth is cooling

every day, and by slowly accumulating instrument errors. "When these changes are also included, the result is a continued fall in satellite-measured temperatures," Simon Brown, of the Hadley Centre for Climate Prediction and Research at the Meteorological Office, said. "So there is

still a contradiction between ground-based and satellite-based temperatures."

The problem is made more acute by the fact that balloon-based measurements of the temperature of the atmosphere during the same period — 1979-95 — back the satellite data, and show a small

cooling. Looked at over a longer period, from the 1950s, the balloon data showed an increase, Dr Brown said.

So what is happening? Dr Brown suggests that, over the relatively short time covered by the satellite data, natural fluctuations in the atmosphere could have created the anomaly.

It is possible, he says, that during this period, the atmosphere could have been diverging from the Earth's surface.

Critics of global warming, however, will continue to use the satellite and balloon data to argue that nothing is happening, and that the issue is literally hot air.

# Scrap car law may be recycled

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

LAWs that will make it illegal to scrap a car in any way except through recycling yards are being considered by the Government. Motorists will have to prove they have scrapped their car in an environmentally friendly way to get an authorised Certificate of Destruction.

The proposal is being backed by the motor industry, which fears that reuse and recycling targets may prove impossible unless vehicles are channelled into "green" dismantling and scrapyards.

The industry has set itself targets for recycling or reusing 85 per cent of cars and vans by 2002 and 95 per cent by 2015. It is currently recycling 75 per cent.

But a spokesman for the Automotive Consortium on Recycling and Disposal said yesterday that its efforts were

being undermined by collapsing markets for recycled materials and the high cost of kitting out a scrapyards with recycling equipment such as bays where oils and other fluids were trapped for recycling or safe disposal so they



Disposing of cars may harm the environment

did not leak into the ground and poison water supplies. The value of materials from an average scrap car have more than halved in the past year, barely covering the cost of recovery.

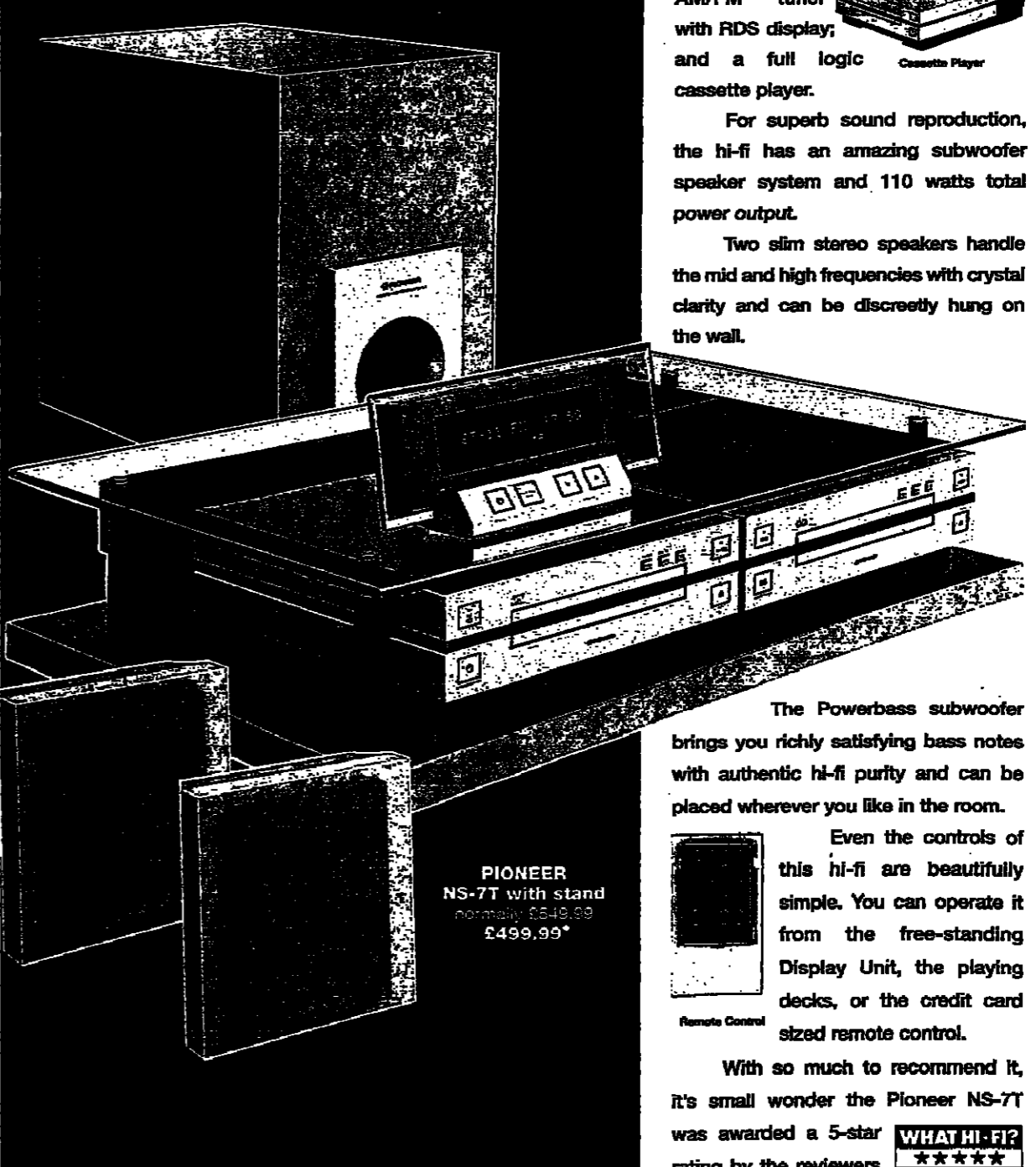
The spokesman, whose organisation includes the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders' and motor firms including Rover and Ford, said the 2,000 authorised dismantlers were investing millions of pounds in equipment to break down and recycle vehicles in environmentally friendly ways, but too many cars were ending up at unauthorised scrapyards with far lower green standards. "It is extremely frustrating for those companies that are trying to behave responsibly," the spokesman said. "It may be possible for a last owner to get a better price

from an unlicensed dismantler who has not incurred all the costs associated with complying with environmental standards."

The pressure for the scheme emerged in yesterday's annual report of the consortium, which was set up last year. It reveals that 1.9 million cars and vans were scrapped in 1997. Of the 2 million tonnes this represented, just over 207,000 tonnes (about 10 per cent) was re-used in the form of parts and 1.3 million tonnes (65 per cent) was recycled. The rest — mainly plastic, rubber, fabric and glass — was dumped in landfill sites.

Yesterday a spokeswoman at the Department of Trade and Industry said ministers were considering the Certificate of Destruction which would probably be administered by the DVLA.

# A HI-FI THAT WILL TURN YOU ON EVEN WHEN IT'S OFF



If you thought all hi-fi nowadays were ugly black boxes, you're in for a beautiful surprise at Comet.

Pioneer have created an exciting new Mini Hi-Fi system that looks as stunning as it sounds.

Finished in silver, grey and light maple wood-effect, its sleek and minimalist design harmonises perfectly with contemporary homes.

And because the units are separate and so compact, you can arrange them in the layout that best suits your room or hide them discreetly if you prefer.

At the heart of the system is a matching pair of state-of-the-art playing decks: a CD Player/Amplifier/Tuner and a combined CD player, amplifier and AM/FM tuner with RDS display; and a full logic cassette player.

For superb sound reproduction, the hi-fi has an amazing subwoofer speaker system and 110 watts total power output.

Two slim stereo speakers handle the mid and high frequencies with crystal clarity and can be discreetly hung on the wall.

The Powerbass subwoofer brings you richly satisfying bass notes with authentic hi-fi purity and can be placed wherever you like in the room.

Even the controls of this hi-fi are beautifully simple. You can operate it from the free-standing Display Unit, the playing decks, or the credit card sized remote control.

With so much to recommend it, it's small wonder the Pioneer NS-7T was awarded a 5-star rating by the reviewers of 'What Hi-Fi?' magazine.

Even the price is very attractive. Just £499.99 with this advertisement at Comet, normally £549.99. So bring along your favourite CDs and audition it today. We think it's the best sound you'll ever see.

# COMET

OPEN WEEKDAYS FROM 9AM-8PM, SATURDAY 9AM-6PM AND MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY 11AM-5PM

WE PROMISE THE LOWEST PRICES. The Comet Price Promise guarantees that if you buy any product from us, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE. Ask in store for full details.

**3 for 2**

**efasit**

INTERMOISTURE

DEFLECTOR

18 MONTHS

**LOVE**

0500 95 21 21

THE COMET PRICE: The stores in South Wales do not show savings in store. All items subject to availability. \*Moucher offer ends close of business 20.08.98. Voucher cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or voucher. Note to stores: Voucher offer Process as Reason Code AS. Price and information correct at time of news to press 12.08.98. RODNEY HILLNES



Talebani

# Auschwitz besieged in war of the crosses

Relations between Poland, where the ultra-Right holds the key to power, and the Jewish community are at rock bottom, reports Roger Boyes

EVERY morning, just after dawn, three plump women cross the old gravel pit at Auschwitz death camp and plant a wooden cross. The work is slow; a hole must be dug, the cross hammered in. "We don't have time to talk," said a middle-aged woman called Hanka by her friends, "and certainly not to nosy Jewish journalists." The country's war of the crosses on the fringes of the Nazis' most notorious death camp has taken on such a bitter tone that all outsiders are regarded as a menace, as part of a global conspiracy.

Relations between Poland and the Jewish community, always raw, have reached a terrible low. The Government — dependent on church-backed political groupings — is at odds with the Roman Catholic hierarchy. The Church is divided. No one, of course, knows what the ghosts of the 1.5 million camp victims think of this macabre argument conducted over their

quiet grave. A 25ft cross was set up on the site of Auschwitz-Birkenau for the Pope's first Polish pilgrimage in 1979. After he returned to Rome, it was taken down and, some years later, placed in the gravel pit near the so-called Old Theatre, a redbrick building once used to store Zyklon B gas canisters which later became a convent for the Carmelite Order.

After Jewish protests, the Carmelites left in 1993, but the cross remained. Jewish organisations in America com-



plained that Poles were trying to render Christian what was essentially the world's biggest Jewish cemetery. After difficult negotiations, it was agreed to build an ecumenical prayer centre some distance from Auschwitz. Under the agreement, reached last year, the cross should be replaced by a monument honouring 152 Catholic Poles murdered on that spot.

Since then, however, Poland's political make-up has fundamentally changed. Now the country is ruled by an anti-communist coalition dominated by the conservative AWS — itself a coalition that includes zealous Christian nationalists. They are cheered on by an international Catholic radio station, Radio Maryja, run by the outspoken Father Tadeusz Rydzik. Over the airwaves he attacks liberals, Freemasons, atheists, Jews, communists, Germans, and the European Commission. Two dozen AWS deputies subscribe to his ideas. If they

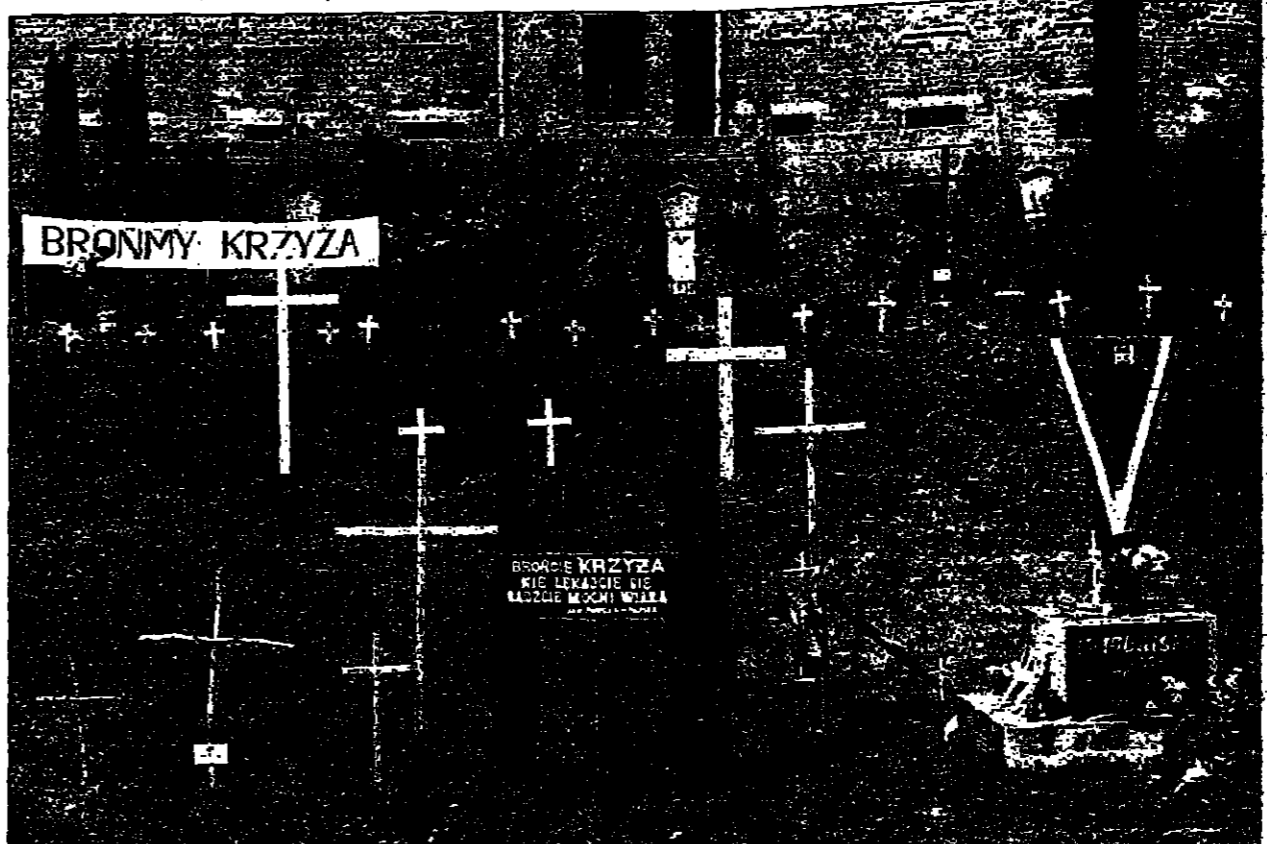
were to defect, the Government would not survive.

Father Rydzik has called on his four million listeners to stage a pilgrimage to Auschwitz, plant crosses everywhere, and resist the removal of the papal cross.

As of last night, there were 102 of the planned 152 little crosses. Some are carefully made crucifixes, the products of local carpentry. Others are more rough, hewed from the birch trees that gave Birkenau its name.

This week officials from the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem asked the Polish Government to take away the papal cross. The Israeli Government urged that they all be removed. Marek Siwiec, a close aide to President Kwasniewski, said they should go, stating that Poles have "enough places to worship the Cross".

At the sharp end of this campaign there is Kazimierz Switon, a tough 70-year-old former dissident. "The cross is



"Defend the cross" banners and crosses placed by Catholics beside the former Auschwitz death camp

the to-be-or-not-to-be of Poland. If we allow the Jews to take it away, we will be slaves in one or two years." Slaves to whom? Mr Switon does not say, nor do the hundreds of Catholic believers starting to swarm around the outer fence of Auschwitz.

The Primate of Poland, Car-

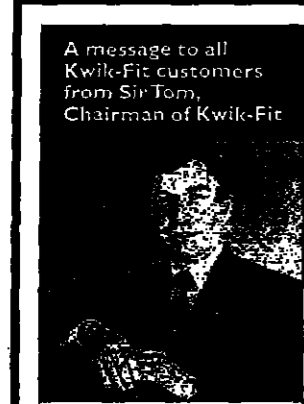
dinal Jozef Glemp, seemed initially to back the cross-planters. "The Government, planning to a Vatican concordat, said the Church had to solve the problem. The cardinal responded: 'This is not a church affair. The cross is a symbol of love and suffering and therefore belongs to the

whole of society.'" To his critics, that suggested the Church's voice was not the Primate's but Father Rydzik's.

Stanislaw Musial, a Jesuit commentator, emphasises that the Primate's view is not shared by all his flock. "These crosses in Auschwitz are not religious symbols at all, they

are clenched fists. The Church today seems to be blind and deaf to the threat to our faith posed by the ultra-Right."

The cardinal yesterday tried to backtrack, signalling he was ready for compromise. Neither Mr Switon's protesters nor the Jewish community seemed in a mood to talk.



A message to all Kwik-Fit customers from Sir Tom, Chairman of Kwik-Fit

We service millions of cars every year and all Kwik-Fit people aim to provide our customers with the highest standards of service at all times. If you have any suggestions as to how we could improve our services, please speak to your local Kwik-Fit Manager, or write to me at Kwik-Fit, 17 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 6DD and you can be sure that we will follow up your comments immediately.

Save £££'s on car insurance

Renewing your car insurance? Call Kwik-Fit Insurance Services on 0345 4 172 70

Lines open 7 days from 10pm

Buy now, pay nothing until December.

4 months interest free credit

Open an Authorcharge Card Account, spend £100 or more and pay nothing for 120 days. Then settle the Authorcharge term, you can spread the repayments — paying as much as you want, when you want.

0% APR

29.8% APR (Variable)

## OUR FREE TYRE CHECK COULD SAVE YOU A £2,500 FINE.

One in six motorists have illegal tyres with a tread depth of less than 1.6 mm and run the risk of a £2,500 fine and 3 penalty points.

Source: Tyre Industry Council.

You can't get better than a Kwik-Fit fitter.

### Remould

TYRES FROM ONLY **£9.50**

E.G. 135R13

---

### New Tyres

FROM ONLY **£10.90**

E.G. 165R17

---

### GOODYEAR

### IRELLI

### DUNLOP

### MICHELIN

Classic

TYRES FROM ONLY **£23.95**

E.G. 175R13

---

### High Performance

TYRES FROM ONLY **£29.95**

E.G. 185MM14 CHAMPION/ULTRAWHO

---

### Van Tyres

FROM ONLY **£32.95**

E.G. 185R14 STONER/STANHOOD

---

### Brakes

FITTED FROM ONLY **£19.95**

E.G. TO FIT SEECOT NO. 4

---

### Exhausts

FROM ONLY **£14.99**

E.G. TO FIT NIVA 1.4, L3 (TO 700)

3 YEAR UNLIMITED MILEAGE GUARANTEE

All complete exhaust systems carry a three year unlimited mileage guarantee. FREE repair or replacement for the first two years, 50% OFF the prevailing price in the third year.

### WORLD IN BRIEF

## Tutsi rebels move to cut off Kinshasa

Kinshasa: Rebels in the Democratic Republic of Congo were yesterday attempting to throw a military noose around the capital, Kinshasa, by advancing on the strategically vital city of Matadi and cutting off supplies of imported food and oil from the coast (Sam Kiley writes).

Prices for basic commodities in Kinshasa have leapt by up to 70 per cent since the start of the rebellion two weeks ago as Tutsi-led guerrillas have raced across the nation with strings of battlefield successes in which barely a shot has been fired. Independent sources said the towns of Mbandaka, Kisumu, and Boma were firmly in rebel hands.

## Appeal by Tehran mayor

Tehran: Gholamhossein Karbaschi, the Mayor of Tehran, has appealed against his conviction last month on corruption charges. The Iranian daily newspaper *Tous* reported yesterday Mr Karbaschi's lawyer submitted the appeal on Tuesday, but days before the deadline. The mayor, an ally of Iran's moderate President Khatami, was sentenced to five years in jail, banned from public office and given a heavy fine. He was also sentenced to 60 lashes, suspended for two years. (Reuters)

## Surgery for King Fahd

Niassa: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, right, underwent successful keyhole surgery to remove an inflamed gall bladder, the royal palace in Riyadh announced (Michael Theodorou writes). The operation on the septuagenarian ruler, who is overweight and diabetic, comes after years of fear over his health. Saudi Arabia is effectively ruled by his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz.



## Cambodia fever warning

Phnom Penh: Health officials have warned that Cambodia faces the worst epidemic of dengue fever in its history, with fears that the number of cases of the acute viral disease could rise to 16,000 by the end of the year (Caroline Gluck writes). The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched an appeal to raise £200,000 for immediate medical treatment for children and to support a major health education campaign.

## Abiola was not murdered

The independent investigation into the sudden death last month of Chief Moshood Abiola has confirmed that Nigeria's most prominent political prisoner died of natural causes (David Calhoun writes). The conclusion was reached by medical examiners from Britain, America and Canada who carried out a post mortem examination at the request of Abiola's family, who suspected foul play.

## Camera's overexposure

Tokyo: Sony Corporation has halted shipments of some video cameras because their infrared technology could be used to see through clothing. The "night shot" mode showed underwear through light clothing and people in swimsuits looked almost naked when the equipment, now modified, was used in daylight. (AFP, Reuters)

## WORLDWIDE SAVERS

### 10% Extra FREE\*

| FROM UK | To/From  | To UK | FROM UK | To/From   | To UK   |
|---------|----------|-------|---------|-----------|---------|
| 9p      | FRANCE   | 9p    | 9p      | AUSTRALIA | 15p     |
| 9p      | GERMANY  | 9p    | 14p     | JAPAN     | 19p     |
| 9p      | IRELAND  | 9p    | 21p     | MALAYSIA  | 26p     |
| 14p     | ITALY    | 13.5p | 36p     | RUSSIA    | 31p     |
| 18p     | SPAIN    | 18p   | 36p     | GHANA     | 41p     |
| 41p     | THAILAND | 46p   | 7p      | CANADA    | 18p     |
| 9p      | SWEDEN   | 9p    | 6.3p    | USA       | 16.2p   |
| 17p     | ISRAEL   | 22p   |         |           |         |
| 40p     | CHINA    | 45p   |         |           |         |
|         |          |       |         |           | UK 4.5p |

\*ALL PRICES SHOWN INCLUDE 10% DISCOUNT. Rates apply 24hrs a day 7 days a week and one WAY PERIOD. A pre-payment of £250 will entitle you to £250 worth of toll free. OUR SERVICE CAN BE USED FROM ANYWHERE TO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD. FOR RATES TO OTHER DESTINATIONS PLEASE CALL US FREE ON

Line **0800 376 2100**

On Line Flashcards are also available from local outlets. Distributors urgently required for all European countries.

OPEN 7 DAYS Monday to Friday 8am-8pm, Saturday 8am-5pm, Sunday 9am-5pm. Contact your local centre to confirm opening hours.

Please call in for a free tyre safety check today or call free on **0800 222 111**

## Kwik-Fit

You can't get better than a Kwik-Fit fitter

# Taleban advance sparks Russian alert

Moscow fears the Muslim militia may have designs on the Central Asian states, Christopher Thomas writes

TALEBAN troops moved in within five miles of Afghanistan's border with the Central Asian states yesterday, prompting an appeal by Tajikistan for international intervention to save it from what it said was a security threat.

Moscow has 25,000 troops in Tajikistan, which have been put on alert in case Taleban forces attempt to move across the frontier. Voice of Moscow Radio issued a warning that Taleban might cross the border to assert its belief that Central Asian states with a Muslim majority should abide by stricter Islamic edicts.

It added that Tajikistan was the weakest link in the Central Asian defence system and Taleban might use the country as a springboard to other areas. The warning came as President Rakhmonov of Tajikistan held an emergency meeting with defence force commanders and Russian generals in charge of frontier troops guarding the border with Afghanistan.

Igor Sergeev, the Russian Defence Minister, announced last night that Russia was

strengthening defences along the border between Afghanistan and the former Soviet Union.

"Naturally we are taking every appropriate step to strengthen our contingent of troops, including the 201st Mechanised Infantry Brigade," he said.

Russia has no border with Afghanistan, but regards the former Soviet-Afghan frontier — running along Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan — as its line of defence against the spread of radical Islam.

Reports from Dushanbe said the Tajik Government had ordered mobilisation of its reserve forces. There were also expressions of alarm from Uzbekistan, which has closed the bridge across the Oxus, which marks the boundary with Afghanistan. Concrete barricades, barbed wire and anti-tank devices have been erected along its length and explosives have been placed to blow it up if necessary.

Tajikistan appealed to the warring sides within Afghanistan and to the United Nations

to act urgently to stop the conflict. Taleban insists that it has no territorial ambitions.

The one country in the region that may not be displaced with Taleban's advance is Turkmenistan, which has vast quantities of natural gas that could be piped through Afghanistan to the Arabian Sea with a branch line supplying Pakistan, which already has a gas distribution system in place. The region has the world's last unexploited land-based oil reserves and several multinational companies are ready to compete for the contracts to build pipelines to the sea.

India, too, is interested in Turkmenistan's gas, although it does not have a distribution network. The pipeline would be a financial boon to Taleban, which believes it is within striking distance of controlling the entire country. It captured yet more important territory yesterday, including the strategic town of Pul-i-Khumri in Baghlan province. The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press news agency reported that Taleban had also seized



Russian guards survey the Afghan frontier for Taleban militia movements as the Tajik Government appealed for international intervention

Hairatun, a river port town on Afghanistan's northern border with Uzbekistan. On Tuesday, Taleban captured Talqan, capital of Takhar province, which borders Tajik-

istan. They are reported to have taken hundreds of prisoners. Iran insists that 11 of its diplomats remained in Taleban's custody after the Iranian Consulate in the northern

city of Mazar-i-Sharif was overrun last Saturday. Taleban denies the claim. Iran, worried about the fate of Afghanistan's Shia minority under Taleban rule, has for

years been funding opposition forces in the north. □ Kabul: The UN reported that Taleban had agreed to allow aid agencies to return to work in the capital pending a

decision on a relocation dispute. "It is a breakthrough after four days of talks," Bronck Szymalsky, who is heading the UN team talking to Taleban, said. (Reuters)



## Zealots' triumph likely to sour as misgivings of supporters grow

By DOMINICK DONALD

AN END to 20 years of war in Afghanistan suddenly seems in sight. In the past two weeks, Taleban — the fundamentalist militia recruited from refugee-carrying theological students — seems to have broken the back of its opposition.

Northern battions held by the opposition groups have fallen; Shia/Muslim and ethnic Uzbek and Tajik forces are now cut off from their Russian, Iranian and Central Asian supply lines.

Ahmed Shah Masood, Defence Minister in the United Nations-recognised coalition Government led by President Rabbani, is pinned up in his Panjshir Valley stronghold. Though it was proof against the might of the Soviet Army, protracted resistance without external supplies will be difficult.

Perhaps 1,000 of his fiercely loyal fighters have surrendered to Taleban.

The average Afghan's yearning for stability may have reached even the most die-hard of opposition hearts. Taleban now rules more than 90 per cent of the country. The women of the Panjshir may yet have to cover themselves from head to toe.

But can Taleban hold its gains?

The past 20 years have accentuated Afghan regionalism. A secular Central Asian kind of socialism was strong in Abdul Rashid Dostum's Turkic-speaking Uzbek fiefdom to the north.

The Tajiks, led by General Masood, are mainstream Sunni Muslims. Both look north to recently independent Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, while the Hazaras, descendants of the Mongol hordes, have strong and enduring links to other Hazaras in northern Pakistan.

But the most important single grouping are the Pashtun or Pathans — perhaps 50 per cent of the population, and the backbone of Taleban.

Although most Afghans are Sunnis, observance varies from the fanatical Taleban to the nominally Muslim urban population, where socialist policies of the 1980s found considerable support.

Much of Afghanistan's history has been a struggle to balance these conflicting groups. Whenever one has

gained the ascendancy, others have conspired to bring it down. The Rabbani government collapsed partly because Pathan Gulbuddin Hekmatyar wanted everything for his grouping. History may yet repeat itself.

Taleban is almost exclusively Pathan. Its spin on Islamic law owes more to Pathan customs than to the teachings of the Koran.

And its absolute refusal to make allowances for other beliefs or ways of life means it is highly unlikely to accommodate the peoples it has battled to overcome.

So, though Taleban may seem to offer stability now, it is unlikely to hold. It is not loved, even in areas where it was once welcomed by Afghans with open arms.

Taleban is trying to disarm the areas it controls. No one has disarmed Afghanistan before; it is unlikely that Taleban will succeed. At the same time, many of its victories of the last week were bought, not fought for, and the period since the Soviet withdrawal — and the career of General Dostum in particular — shows that bought men change sides. Above all, Taleban is likely to be subverted by Pakistani military intelligence to deliver a stable Afghanistan; this was needed to lay a pipeline to take Central Asia's gas to Pakistani ports. But Russia wants the pipeline to go through its own territory.

It is also terrified of Islamic fundamentalism. Its allies, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, refuse to believe Taleban's strenuous denials of expansionist intentions: there is evidence Taleban backed Islamic rebels in the latter. Taleban's backers, too, may switch. Pakistan has an enduring fear of Pathan nationalism and its desire to create a Pathan state (Pakhtunistan) on Afghan and Pakistani territory.

A strong Taleban will mean a weakened Pakistan. Any resistance to the dogmatic Taleban is likely to find external support.

Afghanistan's history as a geopolitical plaything has by no means come to an end. □ The author is a member of the Department of War Studies at King's College London.

# It's time to get your records out again.

## Get on track for self assessment.

If you've received a tax return, now is the time to get down to the business of sorting it out.

Any requests.....?

You can avoid making a song and dance of Self Assessment by getting all your tax records to hand. If you employ a tax adviser, send them your records now, so they can start early on your behalf.

Make it your Number One priority.....

We will be happy to calculate your tax, as long as we receive your return by 30 September. If you want to work out your own tax bill, you have until 31 January to get your return back to us. If you need any help or advice, please contact your tax office during business hours, or call the Self Assessment Helpline on 0645 000 444. Alternatively, visit our Website at <http://www.open.gov.uk/inrev/sa.htm>



Revenue  
Self Assessment - a clearer tax system

\*All calls charged at local rate. Open evenings and weekends.

WORLD IN BRIEF  
rebels move out of Kinshasa



# Hillary blames anti-Arkansas bias for woes

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

HILLARY CLINTON has made the extraordinary claim that President Clinton's legal troubles are the result of a bias against Arkansas, their home state.

"I think a lot of this is prejudice against our state," she told a reporter from the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* in Little Rock, adding: "They wouldn't do this if we were from some other state."

Mrs Clinton's comments on those investigating the sex scandal involving her husband and Monica Lewinsky were her most explosive since last January. On that occasion she said the investigation led by Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, was a "vast right-wing conspiracy" against the President.

Her latest remarks were greeted with a mixture of anger and scorn yesterday, with a headline in the *New York Post* describing her as being "Arkansan-sore". But others were quick to point out that Mrs Clinton grew up in a well-to-do suburb of Chicago and is still known in Arkansas as an "Illinois Yankee".

Asa Hutchinson, a Republican Congressman from Arkansas, ridiculed her remark. "It's baffling and inexplicable," he said. "I know she must be going through a lot of stress, but I don't think anyone in Arkansas believes this is occurring because of prejudice towards the state."

In the past, Arkansas did endure a reputation for being backward, and its residents

were the butt of jokes portraying them as dim-witted hillbillies. Mr Clinton's intellectual talents have done much to dissipate that perception.

But some Arkansans agree with Mrs Clinton that Mr Starr's investigation, and the conviction of prominent Arkansas politicians caught up in the Whitewater scandal, show that he does not like the state. He lived there for two years as a student, attending a small religious college and selling Bibles door-to-door to pay for his studies.

A spokesman for Mrs Clinton said her remarks were not part of a new orchestrated confrontation with Mr Starr, but she did not retract them. James Carville, the former Clinton campaign manager known as the "Ragin' Cajun", said she had just expressed what she felt, as opposed to being part of a grand design.

This observation runs counter to Mrs Clinton's own comment last January, when she assured viewers that she and Mr Clinton, who were married in 1975, knew everything there was to know about each other "and we understand and accept and love each other".

Aides insist that Mr Clinton will on Monday continue to deny Ms Lewinsky's claims that she and he had oral sex during her many visits to the White House.

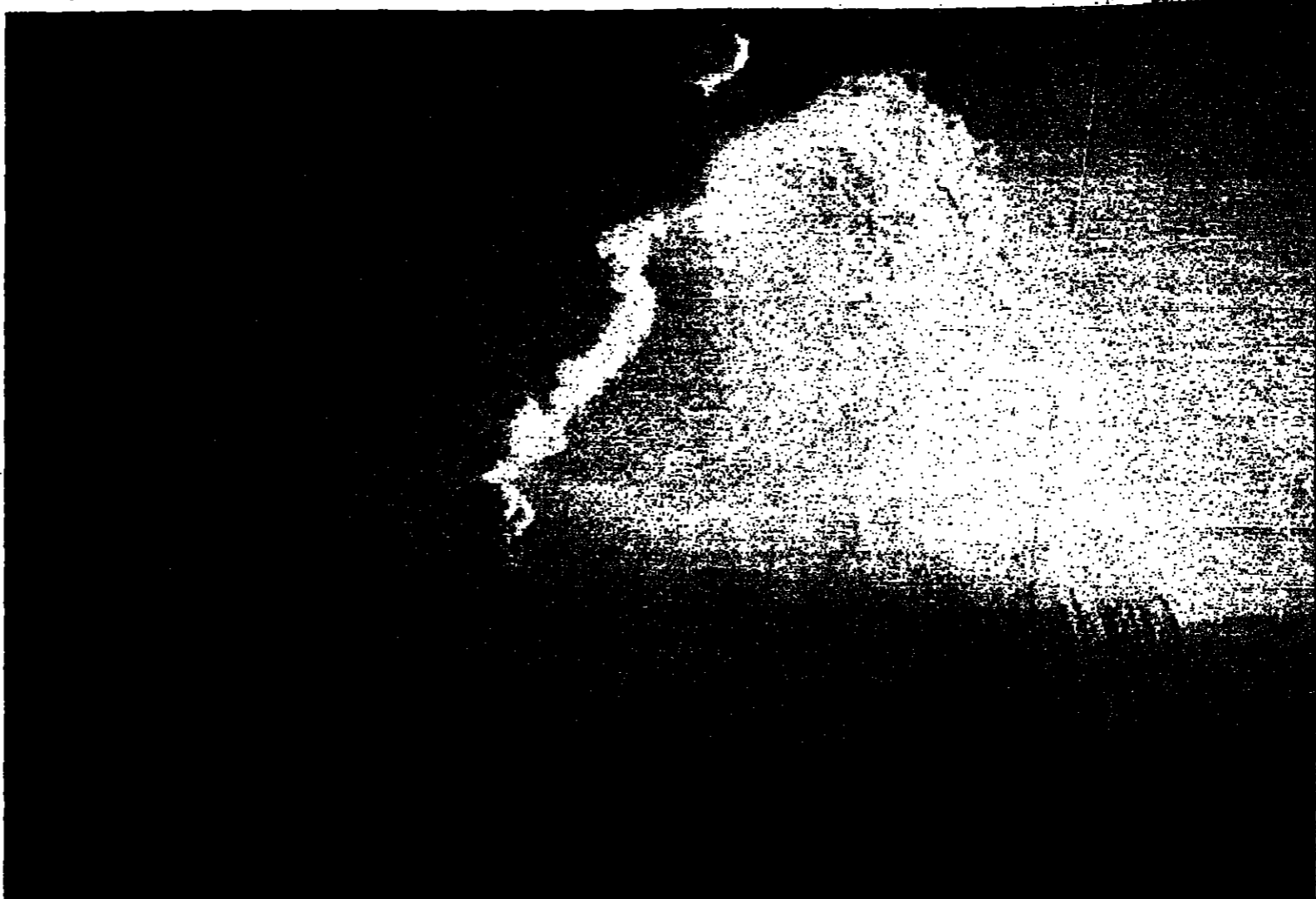
Mrs Clinton's approval ratings are high. A poll last month by CBS News found that 50 per cent of people held a favourable opinion of her, up from 35 per cent in previous years. She is widely viewed with sympathy and as loyally standing by her man. But there is endless speculation about what she must really be thinking and talking about to her husband as he prepares for his grand jury testimony on Monday.

Dee Dee Myers, Mr Clinton's former White House press secretary, believes this is an extremely difficult time for the Clintons and that they probably communicate in many ways through David Kendall, their lawyer.

Ms Myers said on television: "I think these issues are just too difficult for them to discuss with each other in many respects. These are the kind of issues that husbands and wives don't often sit down and have frank conversations about."

This observation runs counter to Mrs Clinton's own comment last January, when she assured viewers that she and Mr Clinton, who were married in 1975, knew everything there was to know about each other "and we understand and accept and love each other".

Aides insist that Mr Clinton will on Monday continue to deny Ms Lewinsky's claims that she and he had oral sex during her many visits to the White House.



Debris is showered over the Atlantic as the Titan 4A missile, as tall as a 20-storey building, explodes seconds after lift-off at Cape Canaveral

## US loses \$1bn spy satellite as rocket explodes

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A US Air Force rocket carrying an unmanned secret spy satellite exploded in a spectacular fireball 42 seconds after lift-off from Cape Canaveral in Florida yesterday.

"Oh, no," said the launch commentator with the deadpan understatement for which they are renowned, "it appears that we've had a major malfunction of the vehicle". Debris continued to arc into the sky like the grand finale of a Fourth of July

fireworks display before showering down into the Atlantic. Winds blew a cloud of toxic fuel, looking like a huge orange doughnut, safely out to sea where it dispersed within 30 minutes.

Reporters and photographers were hustled away on buses from a press site seven miles from the launch pad, ostensibly in case a sudden wind shift brought the debris and cloud inland. However, Nasa employees and their families watching from a viewing area were not evacuated.

The double boom of the explosion could be heard for miles, setting off car

and burglar alarms and rattling windows throughout the nearby community of Cocoa Beach. The Titan 4A rocket, as tall as a 20-storey building, was said to be carrying an eavesdropping satellite that would have listened in on military and government communications over the Middle East, India, Pakistan and China. A similar satellite was launched successfully in May.

The satellite reportedly cost \$1 billion (£617 million) and the lost rocket an additional \$200 million. The solid-fuel boosters, the only rockets

firing at the time of the explosion, were similar to those on Nasa's space shuttle. The loss was reminiscent of the explosion that destroyed the shuttle *Challenger* in 1986, killing all seven of the crew.

No immediate reason was given for the explosion, although the launch had been delayed for 90 minutes by problems with fuelling the rocket.

The Titan, the last of its line, should have been launched late last month but was grounded while workers repaired torn insulation on the rocket's upper stage.



Hillary Clinton, known as the "Illinois Yankee"

## Sinatra abductors denied cash

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

FRANK SINATRA'S only son has won a court order barring three men, who kidnapped him 35 years ago, from making money out of a film on the incident.

Barry Keenan, Joseph Amsler and John Irwin, who served 12 years between them, cannot receive payments of up to \$1 million (£613,000) they were reportedly to get from Columbia Pictures for their help with the film, Frank Sinatra Jr's lawyer said.

The studio decision to make a film about one of the most traumatic episodes in Frank Sinatra's life comes barely four months after his death.

It is thought that the singer, who was highly protective of his family life, would have objected to the project. The

bizarre kidnapping makes perfect film fodder, however. The singer's son was 19 and estranged from his father, when three men burst into his room in Harrah's Casino on the shore of Lake Tahoe one snowy night in December 1963.

Led by Keenan — a high-school friend of Nancy Sinatra, who had become addicted to painkillers after a car crash, the abductors fled from the lake in a blizzard, talked their way through a police roadblock and drove 425 miles to Los Angeles.

According to recent accounts, "Frankie", as his father called him, bonded with his kidnapers and even swallowed sleeping pills with whisky so inquisitive police

would think he was drunk. After three days of high drama, the FBI closed in and there was chaos in the kidnappers' safe house.

The singer handed over \$240,000 (£147,000) — even though he had offered \$1 million. "That's what I've decided we need," Irwin said in a phone call.



Even Frankie's handover was botched; he was left at a lonely Los Angeles crossroads but not told his father was to pick him up. Eventually a security guard took him home in the boot of a car.

The story, eclipsed by America's continuing trauma over President Kennedy's assassination, was recounted recently in a Los Angeles newspaper article.

# HALF PRICE SALE

plus FREE DISHWASHER\* WORTH £599 RRP

### (NOW SAVING MONEY IS CHILD'S PLAY)

Every Magnet kitchen is designed to look stunning, and built to take everything life can throw at it. And right now all kitchen and bedroom cabinets are half price,\* plus a free Dishwasher\* worth £599 rrp. We've got many more offers on  and  appliances too. At Magnet you can be sure of a service that's second to none with a unique colour 3D design and planning service, a design manager who will visit you after we've installed your kitchen to make sure you're 100% satisfied, and an impressive 10 year guarantee on all our rigid carcasses. Call 0800 192 192 today for details of your nearest showroom, quoting code T146.

## Magnet

Designed for living BUILT FOR LIFE

www.magnet.co.uk

\*Cycling hours: Monday to Sunday 9.00am-5.00pm. Selected branches open until 8.00pm on Thursday and 10.00am-4.00pm on Sunday. Check each branch for details. \*Discount on retail kitchen and bedroom units only. Prices charged between 31st May and 30th June 1998. Introductory offer on new dishwasher ranges. \*When you spend £2,000 or more on a kitchen purchase including installation. Dishwasher ADG70 or B436. Only one free offer per kitchen purchase.

## JUICY PRICES

**PRO PHOTO & VIDEO BARGAINS** 35

**Canon eos 500**  
 & Canon 35-80/4-5.6EF lens  
 Last stocks of this award winning SLR at an unbeatable price! Small easy to handle AF SLR with full auto mode plus 4 program options via easy dial control. Built-in red-eye reducing flash.  
 Original RRP £369.99  
**£199.99** SAVE £170

**1/2 PRICE ACCESSORY KIT!** £19.99

**Minolta Vectis UC** HALF PRICE!  
 Great value easy-to-use autofocus Advanced Photo System camera with information exchange lens £99.99  
 Now only **£49.99**

**Maxell VHS Tape** 99p  
 E-180 3-hour high grade tape. RRP - £2.99

**1/2 PRICE Kodak Film** £1.49  
 36-exp ISO 200 35mm Colour Print film. RRP - £2.99

**FREE CLEANING CLOTH**  
 To keep your equipment Spik & Span! FREE cleaning cloth worth £1.99

**FREE Catalogue**  
 Pick up a copy of our latest catalogue. It's bursting with the best photo, video & digital deals available from any store or telephone. **0800-0388899** and we'll post you one straight away.

**Tecno**  
 PHOTO • VIDEO • DIGITAL

LONDON: TORRENTBRIDGE 0171-351 654 KENSINGTON 0171-402 5111 CITY 0171-261 401 HOLLOWAY 0171-311 079 BELLSHOP 0171-224 0844  
 BIRMINGHAM 0121-432 5771 BRISTOL 01274-99 318 BUNDOCK 01274-402 402 BURNLEY 01274-313 185 CARDIFF 01222-22345  
 CHELSEA 0181-3011 1148111 HULL 01482-333333 LEEDS 0113-243 313 LEXINGTON 0146-24088  
 MANCHESTER 0161-278441 NEWCASTLE 0191-331 839 NOTTINGHAM 0115-2711111 NORTHERHAM 0115-2711111 OXFORD 01865-24444  
 PETERBOROUGH 01753-35411 READING 0116-59185 59585 READING 0116-2711111 SOUTHAMPTON 01703-2711111 WATFORD 0171-242225

**EXPRESS MAIL ORDER FREEPHONE 0800 0388899**  
 24-HOUR SUPPORT. SELECTED ITEMS & MAIL ORDER OPEN SUNDAY. \*We accept Credit Cards & even cash!

FBI invest

Stop for a better You've

air

# FBI investigates Iran envoy connection

## Argentine judge finds link to terror attack on Jews

By Gabriella Gagini in Rio de Janeiro, David Orr in Nairobi, and Michael Evans, Defence Editor

A SUSPECTED Iranian Government connection to the bombs that exploded near the American embassies in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam was being investigated yesterday, as FBI officers hunted for evidence after last week's two attacks which killed more than 250 people.

The focus was on four Iranian diplomats, all alleged by opponents of the Tehran regime to have links with state-sponsored terrorism. Two of the envoys, Kazem Tabatabai, Iranian Ambassador in Nairobi, and Ahmad Dargahi, his Cultural Attaché, left the Kenyan capital about two weeks before the bomb explosions. This was confirmed by the Iranian Embassy.

It was also claimed that Ali Saghalian, the Ambassador in Dar es Salaam, and Muhammad-Javad Tashkiri, his Cultural Attaché, had left Tanzania about the same time.

Mr Saghalian, when he was charged d'affaires in Buenos Aires in 1996, was accused by a judge of being involved in organising terrorist cells in Argentina. He was withdrawn to Tehran after serving for only two months in the country. He was suspected of helping to organise the suicide terrorist bomb attack on a Jewish community centre in July 1994, which killed 89 people.

Although he was not posted to Buenos Aires as a diplomat until February 1996, Argentine authorities said that they suspected Mr Saghalian was among Iranians who travelled to Argentina before the bomb attack.

His name was supplied to Judge Juan José Galeano — who was investigating the bomb attack — by Manoucher Mostamer, a former Iranian intelligence agent who gave himself up to Venezuelan authorities in March 1996.

In statements to judicial and police officials in Argentina, Mr Mostamer alleged that Mr Saghalian was among Iranian Government representatives who were part of a wider network which org-



Khatami challenged by Iranian hardliners

anised and financed the Jewish centre bombing.

In March 1996 Judge Galeano announced that he had evidence indicating that Mr Saghalian and Moshem Rabbani, the then Cultural Attaché, were involved in organising the bombing. Iran immediately recalled the two diplomats, who could not be arrested after claiming diplomatic immunity.

Judge Galeano said this week that an FBI report accused Iran of organising and financing the 1994 Jewish community centre bombing.

Newspaper reports in Buenos Aires claimed that Mr Saghalian was a political ally and right-hand man of Javad Mansouri, the founder and first commander of the Revolutionary Guards. Mr Mansouri is the author of a book, *Revolution and Diplomacy*, which advises that "our revolution can only be exported

with grenades and explosives" and calls for every Iranian embassy to be turned into an intelligence centre "and base to export revolution".

Iranian dissidents claimed that Mr Tashkiri had been expelled from Jordan for "terrorist activities" before being sent to Africa.

Last night, the Iranian Embassy in Dar es Salaam said Mr Saghalian was still in the Tanzanian capital but was not available for interview. A different embassy official confirmed, however, that Mr Tashkiri was out of the country.

The Iranian official in Dar es Salaam dismissed as "baseless" allegations that diplomats from the embassy could have been behind the bombing in the Tanzanian city.

Commenting on the absence of three Iranian diplomats before the bombings, Western diplomatic sources in Kenya and Tanzania said that it was common for senior Iranian diplomats to return to Tehran in August. It was a time when the Iranian intelligence services were known to hold conferences to plan operations, one diplomatic source said.

Mr Tabatabai, the Ambassador in Nairobi, was based in Baghdad between 1989 and 1992 and was appointed to Kenya in January 1997.

A US Embassy spokesman in Nairobi said: "The issue of Iran has come up. Iran is on the list of four or five main suspects."

Although President Khatami of Iran has been trying to improve relations with Washington, hardliners led by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the spiritual leader, remain virulently anti-American and are locked in a power struggle with the President.

Only one organisation, calling itself the Islamic Army for the Liberation of Holy Places, has claimed responsibility for the blasts. The sophisticated nature of Friday's attacks has led terrorism experts to conclude that a government almost certainly masterminded them.



Prudence Bushnell, the US Ambassador to Kenya, places flowers at the Nairobi bomb site yesterday, six days after a terrorist attack. The dead now number 248

## Nairobi diggers defeated as woman dies just before rescue

FROM DAVID ORR IN NAIROBI

A WOMAN who had been signalling to rescuers from beneath the rubble of a bombed building in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, was yesterday taken out dead.

Rose Wanjiku, who had just died, was found in the early hours when Israeli soldiers removed a layer of wreckage that had trapped her near a lift shaft. Her will to survive after the office building was levelled in last Friday's terrorist attack on the

US Embassy had inspired rescuers to keep digging.

A number of the occupants were pulled out alive, but most were taken out dead. Work on removing rubble continues but the search for survivors is now over.

Rose Wanjiku had last been heard tapping on Monday. She spoke to Kenya Red Cross workers on Sunday — the last day someone was brought out alive from under the hundreds of tonnes of

masonry that was Ufundi Co-op House. The five-storey building stood next to the US Embassy, behind which the bomb had exploded.

Prudence Bushnell, the US Ambassador to Kenya who was hurt in the bombing, was among dignitaries who last night attended a ceremony for the victims and laid a wreath. Leaders of the Kenyan, Israeli, American and French rescue teams each laid wreaths on a cairn of rubble.

## US embassies close amid fears of more attacks

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN WASHINGTON

THE United States has temporarily closed half a dozen embassies around the world and put the rest of its missions on full alert in the wake of the East African bombings and new threats of further terrorist attacks.

The State Department would not specify which missions had been shut, but they included those in Uganda and Sudan. The department also said that it had received information about possible threats to US interests in Egypt, Malaysia, and Yemen, which could include targeting buildings.

"We're not shutting down in a permanent sense. We are not leaving," Patrick Kennedy, Assistant Secretary of State, said. "We are talking, in effect, a brief time-out in order to make security adjustments that are necessary to be responsive to a threat."

He said that overseas posts had received up to two dozen threats since the bombs in Kenya and Tanzania, including some that were suggesting "copycat" attacks.

"If, in a period of heightened threat, the chief of mission feels that there is information available to him or her that says a particular step should be taken, including briefly suspending operations until adjustments to security posture can be made, then we feel that is absolutely the right thing to do," Mr Kennedy said.

In Kuala Lumpur the US embassy paid off staff at a petrol station adjacent to its compound and closed it down. In Egypt, staff working in outlying buildings were relocated to the main compound which is surrounded by high stone walls and ringed by US Marines and Egyptian soldiers. At the embassy in Kuwait, which stands alone in a large space, Kuwaiti and American officers manned new checkpoints.

The US embassy in Khartoum had its gates chained shut and calls were going unanswered. In 1996 diplo-

omats were ordered out when it was decided their security could not be guaranteed, but they later returned. In Saudi Arabia, the US embassy warned the 35,000 citizens in the country of the "need for continued and increased vigilance."

As her officials co-ordinated the security operation around the world, Madeleine Albright, the Secretary of State, flew to the US Air Force base in Ramstein, Germany, to accompany the bodies of 11 Americans killed in Nairobi on their journey back to the US. The body of Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Sherry Lynn Oles had already been flown back to Florida.

Ms Albright described her trip as "a mission of pride and sorrow."

"I go with deep respect for service provided to our country by those who gave their lives on its behalf. I go secure in the knowledge that America will never be intimidated or back down in the face of terrorists," she said.

President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, will attend a ceremony for the dead and meet relatives when the bodies arrive at Andrews Air Force base today.

The US moved quickly yesterday to defend itself against accusations in the Kenyan media that it had been chiefly concerned with finding its own citizens rather than the overall rescue operations in Kenya and Tanzania. One volunteer rescuer was quoted as saying: "We were so close to a woman but we just couldn't reach her. I asked the Americans for a drill but they said they would have to authorise it and in the end it was too late."

The *East African Standard* described the alleged prioritising as "the ugly side of Americans". There has also been anger at US warnings to its citizens not to travel to Kenya.

The embassy in Nairobi responded by issuing a two-page statement detailing the assistance it had given so far.

Europe from

**£99**

Return inc. taxes. All destinations.

Stop looking for a better offer. You've found it.

No airline offers you such exceptional value to Europe. Not to mention more service. Greater comfort and legroom. Seat assignment. A dedicated check-in. An enhanced frequent flyer programme. And complimentary refreshments. So call us today. For a better offer to Europe, you've stopped at exactly the right place.

debonair 0541 500 300 or contact your travel agent

call 0541 500 300 or contact your travel agent

Be more comfortably off

Nice • Rome • Madrid • Barcelona • Lisbon • Munich • Berlin • Düsseldorf (Mönchengladbach)

Daily scheduled flights from London Luton. Also from Newark. In partnership with All Airlines. Offer subject to availability. Bookings to be made by 31 Aug 1998. Travel between 1 Oct - 10 Dec 1998.

Maximum PC power Tiny price

It's the best high performance value in the High Street.

WINDOWS 98 NOW INCLUDED

350MHz

IF YOU WANT sheer, unbridled multimedia power, then this Tiny System delivers it like no other PC can for the money. The computer spec is awesome by any standards. You're not paying for peripheral extras you may not want. This is a real PC driver's machine.

True Formula One position pace — for the price of a family PC. Look out your crash helmet.

And test drive it this weekend at your local Tiny showroom.

**SUPER POWER PLUS SYSTEM**

- Intel® Pentium® II Processor 350 Mhz
- 64MB FAST SD RAM
- 8.4GB Ultra DMA IDE Hard Disk Drive
- 15" SVGA Colour Monitor
- 32 Speed Max CD ROM Drive
- ATI Xpert 98 AGP 8MB SD RAM Graphics Card
- Wavetable 64 3D Sound plus 180 Watt PMPO Speakers
- Voice Fax/Modem 56Kbps
- Free Trial BT LineOne Internet Access
- Now including Windows 98

**£999** or less

**OTHER SYSTEMS START FROM £599**

FOR MORE INFORMATION FREEPHONE 0800 731 9372

**NO DEPOSIT PAYMENTS INTEREST** 0% APR

**THE BIGGEST PC MANUFACTURER IN THE HIGH STREET**

72 SHOWROOMS NATIONWIDE

BRADFORD NOW OPEN



# Have a happy, healthy holiday



**Dr Thomas Stuttford reports on foot fungi from dirty pools, heatstroke, ear infections, travel sickness and female hygiene**

With evenings as warm as those in Italy, Londoners have been able to behave as if they are in Tuscany and dine in the garden. They should take note of the size of the melting after-dinner mints. Keen scientists, who have been analysing the organisms that flourish around swimming pools, have used the surface area of a mint as a useful measure.

Each mint-sized area of the York stone or Spanish tile around the pool — where their children played so happily during the day — is home to more than 500 fungal spores. There are twice as many spores on the steps leading into the water, and more than ten times as many on the changing-room floor.

Dermatologists have pointed out that in hot weather the sweater bits of the human body become a haven for fungal infections. The feet are the most vulnerable, but fungal infections are also at home under the arms, in the groin and in any folds of skin.

The increase in the decibel count from public pools once the thermometer reaches 80F is an accurate indication of just how relieved harried and busy parents are when the sun comes out and they can rely on swimming pools to entertain their children during the long, slow watches of the summer holidays. They had better have their anti-fungals ready to deal with the itchy, sore skin between the toes and the underside of the feet.

Athlete's foot isn't confined to the feet of juvenile swimmers: at any time, 10-15 per cent of the population would

rather not have their feet too closely examined and would be rather embarrassed by the soggy, oozing white tissue between the cracked skin of their toes.

Men suffer from athlete's foot more often than women, possibly because they keep their feet bottled up in shoes, not all of which have leather soles, which breathe.

The parents drinking their brandy and coffee cannot be too smug about their own feet. A visit to the swimming pool is more likely to result in catching athlete's foot if the bather is a teenager or older. The three common skin fungi (dermatophytes) which cause athlete's foot are *Trichophyton rubrum*, *Trichophyton mentagrophytes* and *Epidermophyton floccosum*. The fungi live off the keratin, a skin protein, of the sufferer's foot; the spores are then shed on to the swimming pool floor in tiny flakes of skin which are always being discarded. The fungi flourish in the damp. Feet need to be dried very carefully between the toes, and preferably a separate towel should be kept for the feet so that the foot infection is not transferred to other parts of the body. Members of the family who are known to have athlete's foot should have their own towels.

The choice of socks and shoes is important. Microbiologists showed last year that there were more organisms living in the average adolescent's pair of trainers than there were in a lavatory bowl. New Age sandals may be ideal from the point of view of foot hygiene, but may not always be in accord with social

**Sweatier parts are a haven for fungal infections**



Pooled resources: organisms that cause athlete's foot flourish around swimming pools and are particularly prolific on the steps leading into the water

and professional conventional life. Leather shoes are better than plastic ones, and leather soles are better than rubber soles.

Porous uppers went out in the 1930s with co-respondent shoes, but they were good for the toes. A broad-fitting shoe which does not crowd the toes but allows air to circulate is helpful.

It is easy enough to clean out the lavatory — which has

only one 75th of the number of fungi that are in trainers — but, even so, it is now possible to get a spray, Daktrim Spray Powder, to have a blitz on the inside of the shoes.

Men's socks are kindest to the feet when made of 30-40 per cent wool to 60-70 per cent artificial thread. The weave is also important. However, it is unwise to wear pure cotton or silk socks: they are very light but, as they are not absorbent,

the fungi may flourish. Acute fungal infections of the feet can also be treated by Daktrim or any other fungicide.

Chronic infections of the nails and skin of the feet are more difficult to treat but Sporaxol Pulse, taken by mouth, is officially indicated for this use. It is an efficient, if rather expensive, way of restoring one's feet to the point where a walk to the pool isn't a self-conscious exercise.

## Nature is often a woman's best friend

SOME people are worried about the cleanliness of swimming-pool water, not only because of the effect on their gastrointestinal tracts of any bacteria that they might swallow, but also because of the possibility of contracting skin infections and developing eye or ear inflammations. Some of the latter can be caused by the chlorine or other disinfectants used in pools.

Women also worry about developing genital infections from contaminated pool water, but this is most unlikely. Unpleasant discharges can occasionally be induced by the use of some bath salts added to bath water to treat a non-existent problem.

Dr David Hicks, a consultant physician in genitourinary medicine in Sheffield, has written recently in the British Journal of Sexual Medicine about the hazards of douching, which might have worse effects.

Women who douche have a 73 per cent increased risk of developing a pelvic inflammatory disease and a 76 per cent increased risk of an ectopic pregnancy.

If a commercial solution is used for the douching, then these risks are increased four-fold. Douching once a week increases the risk of cervical cancer by 86 per cent. Doublers, for one reason or another, may be prone to infection.

The lesson of Dr Hicks's statistics is that nature, which has provided a wonderful self-cleaning system for the body, needs no help.

## Surviving the heat

THE publication of a study into the five-day heatwave in August 1995 has coincided with temperatures in the high eighties.

The report — from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine — showed that the 1995 heatwave increased the death rate by 10 per cent. It underlined advice that exercise should be taken with care whenever there are extremes of temperature — either the sizzling

incidence of minor headaches. Failing to adapt to local conditions, an affliction as outdated as the pith helmet, also predisposed people to heat illnesses. Chronic alcoholism, too much exercise, ("mad dogs and Englishmen, out in the midday sun"), heavy, insulating uniforms and a lack of air-conditioning increased the likelihood of exhaustion and heatstroke.

In his book *Traveller's Health*, Dr Richard Dawood suggests that the best way to survive extreme heat in a jungle atmosphere would be to remain naked, but admits that this might offend local customs and provide an easy target for the onslaught of biting insects. In a British heatwave, exercise should be reduced and clothes should be loose and light to allow evaporation of sweat. Every opportunity must be taken to replace lost fluids and salt, but mildly salty foods and drinks are likely to cause fewer tummy upsets than salt tablets.

Heatstroke starts with a headache, dizziness and extreme exhaustion. The skin is burning, red and dry; temperature, heart and breathing rates all rise alarmingly, and urgent cooling is needed to prevent convulsions and sometimes death.

Heat exhaustion caused by excessive sweating provokes dizziness and collapse. The patient needs to have his or her blood volume restored by drinking if possible; if not, by an intravenous infusion. Excessive sweating may also induce severe cramps. These can usually be kept at bay by maintaining hydration and keeping up the salt intake.

Heat illnesses can occur in the absence of any sun.

Sunstroke went out with the pith helmet, which may have enhanced authority and intimidated the locals but didn't protect against heat exhaustion or heatstroke. The role of the hat is to guard the skin of the head and neck and shade the eyes. Thereby it may also reduce the

Heat illnesses can occur in the absence of any sun.

Heat exhaustion caused by excessive sweating provokes dizziness and collapse. The patient needs to have his or her blood volume restored by drinking if possible; if not, by an intravenous infusion. Excessive sweating may also induce severe cramps. These can usually be kept at bay by maintaining hydration and keeping up the salt intake.

Heat exhaustion caused by excessive sweating provokes dizziness and collapse. The patient needs to have his or her blood volume restored by drinking if possible; if not, by an intravenous infusion. Excessive sweating may also induce severe cramps. These can usually be kept at bay by maintaining hydration and keeping up the salt intake.

Heat exhaustion caused by excessive sweating provokes dizziness and collapse. The patient needs to have his or her blood volume restored by drinking if possible; if not, by an intravenous infusion. Excessive sweating may also induce severe cramps. These can usually be kept at bay by maintaining hydration and keeping up the salt intake.

Heat exhaustion caused by excessive sweating provokes dizziness and collapse. The patient needs to have his or her blood volume restored by drinking if possible; if not, by an intravenous infusion. Excessive sweating may also induce severe cramps. These can usually be kept at bay by maintaining hydration and keeping up the salt intake.

Heat exhaustion caused by excessive sweating provokes dizziness and collapse. The patient needs to have his or her blood volume restored by drinking if possible; if not, by an intravenous infusion. Excessive sweating may also induce severe cramps. These can usually be kept at bay by maintaining hydration and keeping up the salt intake.

Heat exhaustion caused by excessive sweating provokes dizziness and collapse. The patient needs to have his or her blood volume restored by drinking if possible; if not, by an intravenous infusion. Excessive sweating may also induce severe cramps. These can usually be kept at bay by maintaining hydration and keeping up the salt intake.

Heat exhaustion caused by excessive sweating provokes dizziness and collapse. The patient needs to have his or her blood volume restored by drinking if possible; if not, by an intravenous infusion. Excessive sweating may also induce severe cramps. These can usually be kept at bay by maintaining hydration and keeping up the salt intake.

Heat exhaustion caused by excessive sweating provokes dizziness and collapse. The patient needs to have his or her blood volume restored by drinking if possible; if not, by an intravenous infusion. Excessive sweating may also induce severe cramps. These can usually be kept at bay by maintaining hydration and keeping up the salt intake.

Heat exhaustion caused by excessive sweating provokes dizziness and collapse. The patient needs to have his or her blood volume restored by drinking if possible; if not, by an intravenous infusion. Excessive sweating may also induce severe cramps. These can usually be kept at bay by maintaining hydration and keeping up the salt intake.

Heat exhaustion caused by excessive sweating provokes dizziness and collapse. The patient needs to have his or her blood volume restored by drinking if possible; if not, by an intravenous infusion. Excessive sweating may also induce severe cramps. These can usually be kept at bay by maintaining hydration and keeping up the salt intake.

### A FAIR HEARING

DESPITE the fears of parents, a child who has recurrent acute otitis media, an acute ear infection, but who still has an intact eardrum can be allowed to swim. If the drum has perforated, or if a grommet has been inserted, the drum and ear should be kept dry until it has healed. Flying with an acute ear infection may be painful. The patient, whether child or adult, should try wearing Earplanes, which delay the effect of pressure changes on the drum during take-off and landing.

Recently Mr William Hefner and Mr Neil Solomons, ear, nose and throat surgeons in Guildford, Surrey, have reviewed the present treatment of acute ear infections for the *Prescriber* magazine. The majority of ear infections recover spontaneously, but there is no doubt that there has been a reduction in complications of the acutely inflamed ear since the introduction of antibiotics.

If antibiotics have been prescribed and there is no improvement within 48-56 hours, an alternative antibiotic should be used. Amoxycillin or Augmentin are a good first choice, second-generation cephalosporins are a sound alternative. Clarithromycin and Azithromycin are effective against a wider range of bacteria than Erythromycin.

## How to be shipshape

MOST travellers have experienced the early symptoms of seasickness, more accurately known as motion sickness because a similar problem can affect people in cars, on aircraft, on fairground swings and, it is said, on camels (one of my grandmothers felt sick if she merely stood on a jetty).

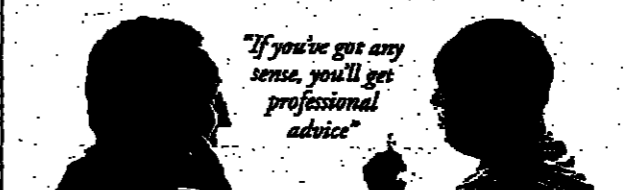
All forms of such sickness start with sweating and increased salivation, and may progress to hot flushes, nausea and, finally, vomiting.

Passengers on a ship should locate the spot where the vessel's motion is least noticeable, usually in the middle of the ship, below decks. Rushing to the deck for air may provide privacy, but nothing else. Lying down is better than standing. When travelling in a car, which should be driven circumspectly, looking straight

ahead along the road can reduce the possibility of disaster. Most of the older preventive medications contain hyoscine, which raises tolerance to movement, but these are not recommended for children or the elderly. Scopolamine taken four hours before travelling is now the favoured treatment.



Travel blues: take precautions



What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE, TREATMENT and ME"

A THIRD of men over 58 suffer with this problem, he said. So no wonder the media are full of it. However, he went on, you would be wise to seek professional advice from qualified people who specialise in treating this embarrassing condition successfully. The Wellman Clinic has

the wisdom which comes from years of experience in this field. Call 0171 637 2018 now and fix an appointment. They will tell you all you need to know about the most appropriate treatment for your particular needs. Do it now!

THE WELLMAN CLINIC  
Weymouth Street, London W1N 8BA  
<http://www.wellmandclinic.com>

Ref: M11836NG

Small print text at the bottom of the advertisement.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

# LIGHT RELIEF

It can cure cancer, TB, hepatitis and pneumonia, as well as viral and psychological disorders. The extraordinary healing power of light. The Sunday Times Magazine, this weekend

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Health insurance.

## From 48p a day.

Call 0800 77 99 55 to find out more.

Prime Health  
A member of the Standard Life Group

The celo

The Instant A Savings Account with a consistently high rate of interest

7.25% GUARANTEED



# Skip the gym and check out church

## Can faith divine a longer life? asks Sarah Hartley

PICTURE the *Six O'Clock News*: a frail Pope John Paul II is addressing crowds in St Peter's Square. Flanked by old cardinals, before his Holiness has stumbled over his first words your mind drifts from world peace and the evil condom to "what on earth keeps these dodderly men alive?"

The answer might, in fact, not be on earth. A new American study by a team of researchers headed by Dr Harold Koenig, at Duke

University, North Carolina, has cited the difference between longevity and good health in those who reach for their hymn books every week compared with those who stay away.

Four thousand over-65 year olds had their lifestyles studied for six years and the results revealed that those who attended church at least once a week had 40 per cent lower blood pressure than those who did not — significantly lowering the chances of having a stroke or developing heart disease.

Sceptics may wonder if this is a pre-millennium God drive coming from America's Bible belt, as the significance of religion in our lives has dwindled.

Not true, according to Dr Koenig. "I'm a sceptic but I've been affected by the findings," he says. "I talked to thousands of older people and they've lived through wars and the Depression and I would say 'What gets you through the bad times?' And they say 'It's my faith.' So we've been looking at how religious people cope better with stress. Rather than obsess about a problem, they pray to God and have the support of a church community." What

reap the same rewards. The combination of physical and mental exercise involved in a typical Anglican service is as uplifting as an hour of yoga. Breathing is moderated by standing for hymns and kneeling for prayers. Communion is in itself humbling — queuing up at the altar everyone is equal in the eyes of God.

Equal, yes, but sane too? Every congregation has its stalwarts but surely the church attracts David Koresh types — the mentally unstable? "That's true" says Dr Koenig, "the church offers those with emotional disorders a resource which stops them getting depressed and they get the attention they crave."

Great news for health freaks who rely on therapy and plastic surgery to sidestep death. Now they can swap their vitamins for an offertory gift which might tag on a few extra years.

Those who attended church had 40 per cent lower blood pressure\*

**S**hining innocuous line the drive that sweeps up to this crenellated neo-Gothic pile: the lawns are precisely clipped and the paths have been recently swept. But the grand mansion dominating these rolling grounds is no National Trust property or country house hotel — welcome to the Priory Hospital, a celebrity asylum in southwest London.

Thick pile carpets and the scent of roasted coffee welcome new arrivals. There is a gourmet menu, too: anything from scampi and salmon vegetable crumble — but, of course, no wine. A night's stay costs £30 — £10 more than a single at the Savoy — unless you are among the fortunate 20 per cent of NHS patients placed at the Roehampton hospital.

Caroline Aberne, the comedian better known as the chat show host Mrs Merton, was among the latest to check in at the so-called clinic to the stars, after acknowledging that she needed treatment for alcoholism. Having pledged to stay clean throughout her stay, she would have undergone both group and individual therapy. Previous patients have included the Queen's cousin Lord Lichfield, the Marquess of Blandford, the television presenter Paula Yates, the singer Sinéad O'Connor and the actresses Nicola Pagett and Emily Lloyd. Eric Clapton, the rock musician, was so grateful to have been weaned off a 15-year addiction to heroin and alcohol that he regularly returns to counsel patients. He owes his life to the Priory.

Pat Hall (not his real name) admits a similar debt. A successful restaurateur before becoming involved in the film industry, he admitted himself after suffering hallucinations and threatening his wife and children. Hall, 37, had catered for rock stars and actors and developed a taste for the high life. In his case, that involved tequila at breakfast and cocaine throughout the day. "I was going down. Money was not a problem — I had a six-figure salary, London horse and country cottage —

but I was getting deeper and deeper into addiction. My wife saw clearly what was happening. She wanted me to get treatment — a friend had suggested the Priory, but I would not listen." A weekend four years ago brought his problems into focus. Having binge-drank on drink and drugs for 72 hours, he confessed his wife of having an affair with a neighbour. "We were having a barbecue and suddenly the craziness took over. I thought this guy was winking at my wife and became convinced the children were his, not mine." Hall cannot remember the roller-coaster ride of violence, remorse and physical collapse that saw him admitted to the Priory the next morning. His former wife, Dilly — the couple have separated — recalls the nightmare: "Pat came at this guy with a kitchen

knife, ranting that the neighbour was father to our children. Thank God, the drink and cocaine had made him weak as a kitten. He collapsed before he could do any damage and we put him to bed. The next day he was full of remorse and agreed to go to the Priory.

## The Instant Access Savings Account with a consistently high rate of interest.

**7.25% GUARANTEED** to match rises in Base Rate

You don't need to save with a High Street Bank or Building Society to get top interest rates that remain consistently high throughout the year.

At 7.25% gross\* you'll see our rate compares very favourably with the competition. Especially when you consider we offer instant access with no penalties or charges and free telephone banking.

All this from the comfort of your own home 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. So there's never any need to waste time queuing at your Bank or Building Society. Save with Bank of Scotland Banking Direct, a safe, secure and profitable home for your money.

For the low-down and an application form call us free on 0500 804 804.

|  | £2,500-£4,999 GROSS* | £5,000-£9,999 GROSS* | £10,000-£24,999 GROSS* | £25,000-£49,999 GROSS* |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Banking Direct - Instant Access Savings Account  | 6.00%                | 7.25%                | 7.25%                  | 7.25%                  |
| Banking Direct - Instant Access (Instant Access) | 4.25%                | 4.25%                | 4.25%                  | 4.25%                  |
| Banking Direct - Instant Access (Instant Access) | 4.00%                | 4.75%                | 4.75%                  | 5.25%                  |
| Banking Direct - Instant Access (Instant Access) | 4.00%                | 5.25%                | 5.25%                  | 5.25%                  |
| Banking Direct - Instant Access (Instant Access) | 4.25%                | 4.25%                | 5.00%                  | 5.25%                  |

**BANK OF SCOTLAND BANKING DIRECT**  
call us free on **0500 804 804**

**I thought I saw snipers with rifles as we drove up'**

Pat recalls little of his first day. He believes he saw a psychiatrist and was given a heavy dose of sedatives. His first coherent memory of treatment is of a group session during which fellow patients were "shouting and crying". Pat was "a man apart", having used the secret supply of cocaine.

During a later psychotherapy session he, too, began to shout and cry. His drugs were gone and Pat had to confront himself, and his shame.

"After that I knew I had turned a corner. Sitting in my room that evening and watching the setting sun touch the garden, I knew I wanted to live and be a person, not an addict."

"I do not even recall what prompted that change of heart but it was probably the contact with others who had the courage to express their pain and the will to turn their lives around. Without the skill of the Priory therapists, that could not have happened."

Pat returned there 18 months later, after his marriage had broken down. He thinks that he began drinking again not because his body craved alcohol, but because he wanted to return to the Priory: his damaged self-esteem needed the shelter that only those familiar surroundings could provide.

"I needed a place I knew was safe. I was still vulnerable, but after a couple of weeks I knew I had to face the outside world once more."

That "safe" feeling is experienced by visitors and patients alike. There is a palpable atmosphere of tranquillity and seclusion from the outside world. Mobile phones are banned. Nursing staff are kind and helpful, even if those they treat must sometimes test them to the limit and beyond. Their patience in the face of verbal abuse and dysfunctional behaviour seems limitless.

On a visit to a friend undergoing treatment I saw nurses smile tolerantly in the face of foul language and physical threat before calming the would-be assailant. The same must be true of some NHS hospitals, but at the Priory there is an almost saintly acceptance of human frailty.

Dr Desmond Kelly, the group medical director, has worked hard to attract consul-

# 400MHz Ultimate PC™

The Time 400MHz UltimatePC™ system based on Intel's fastest Pentium® II processor comes with an incredible specification for just £1185 +VAT

- Intel® Pentium® II Processor 400MHz
- 128Mb SDRAM (PC100)
- 15" digital colour screen (17" optional extra)
- 8.4Gb UDMA-33 hard drive
- 8Mb AGP x2 ATI Rage Pro 3D graphics
- 56k Rockwell flash voice modem
- 84 3D PCI hardware wavetable sound
- 32 speed MAX CD-ROM drive
- PC-TV with Teletext and video capture
- 512K pipeline burst cache
- IBM Gold voice recognition
- Microsoft Windows 98
- FREE £800 of extra preloaded software including SmartSuite 97, Freelance, GSP suite and more

All standard features including floppy drive, premium speakers, mouse, keyboard, all standard ports, Intel® 100MHz bus motherboard with 440BX chipset, ATX case.

400-2e Model: only £240 +VAT = £282 extra. As above but with DVD-ROM II drive, LS120 120Mb Super-floppy drive, Executive subwoofer speakers, new look General case and larger 10.1Gb hard disk.

Product codes: 400 15' 128 17' 120; 400e 15' 134 17' 135

**£1185** Plus VAT  
**£1392.38** Inc VAT

400 MHz Processor | 8Mb AGP2 Graphics | 128 Mb SDRAM | PC-TV with teletext | 8.4 Gb Hard Disk | £800 of Software

EXEC models are available on interest free credit and include joystick, headset, microphone, 5 top games (RFP £140) and over 13 CD multimedia titles (RFP £325) for only £39 +VAT = £116.33 extra. Product 400 15' 134 17' 135; 400e 15' 134 17' 135

**Pay Nothing Until August 1999** 12 months Interest Free Credit  
**NO Deposit NO Payments NO Interest** See typical finance example at bottom

**TIME** The award winning PC manufacturer

**Freephone Time today Offer ends 22nd August**  
**0800 771107**  
Direct Sales Lines Open: Monday - Friday 9.30am - 7pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday: 10am - 4pm  
47 stores nationwide. For store details call 0500 316 2 217. Volume/Business Sales 01282 777 555

August 13 1998  
alls ins  
our Leahley  
Cut-price airline takes the beach road



# Let poor writers be readers

Peter Ackroyd thinks British Library fees are abominable

Consider this. If the impecunious Karl Marx had been asked to pay, *Das Kapital* would never have been written. If the impoverished H.G. Wells had also been asked, the great novels of his early maturity could never have been composed. The works and lives of Bernard Shaw, Charles Dickens and George Gissing would have been materially and unhappily affected.

Yet now the British Library is to consider asking its "readers" to pay £300 a year to use the resources of the new reading room at St Pancras. When I was a young man I could no more have afforded such a sum than I could have purchased the Elgin Marbles, yet without that early awareness of the scholarship and literature of the past, which the library afforded me, I would have been utterly incapable of beginning the course which I still pursue.

It is my earnest belief that the nature and inheritance of this library — the greatest in the world — may run the risk of being destroyed by one misguided decision. Its glory lies in the fact that it has remained an open and catholic institution, to be used by scholars and eccentrics, professors and dilettantes, researchers and journalists, novelists and poets, without any attempt to select or to discriminate its various "readers". That is also its purpose as a national public institution, where the most recalcitrant or imaginative work can be undertaken without the usual constrictions of commerce and payment. To undermine that legacy would be an act of cultural vandalism.

And to what purpose? The revenue from this entrance fee has been variously estimated by the authorities of the British Library as between £3 million and £6 million a year — not much to contribute to a "funding shortfall" estimated at £20 million per annum, while the disparity in the calculations of projected income suggests at best provisional research. How can it be considered proper to change a tradition of 150 years without a meticulous inquiry into its effects?

The actual effect upon the readership, however, would undoubtedly be catastrophic — at least 20 per cent of the present readers, according to the British Library's own figures, are "writers". That term covers a range of professions, few of which are well remunerated, and we may suppose that a large proportion of the current readership would be unable to pay an obligatory entrance fee and would therefore be prevented from using the facilities of St Pancras. The library would then be left to academics, which would undoubtedly change the nature and atmosphere of the library. It would become the equivalent of a university library, and would lose that intimate atmosphere that has always been associated with it. There has always been a form of silent communion among the books, but that unspoken camaraderie would disappear. It would become a site for professional "consumers" only.

Any such discriminatory charge would, on the face of it, also repudiate the conditions of the 1972 British Library Act which confirmed the library as the "national centre for reference, study and bibliographic and other information services", with the clear message that its purpose lay in "serving everyone who needs access to it". It is difficult to see how such a service can then be provided only to those who are able to pay for it.

But the objections are deeper and stronger than the provisions of the 1972 Act. Anthony Panizzi is more than any other person associated with the library of what was then the British Museum; he designed the domed Reading Room of the old building, and in the mid-19th century became its principal librarian. His project was one designed to give the poor, in his own words, "the same means of indulging their learned curiosity as the richest man in the kingdom". He understood that the literature of the nation is a general inheritance, not to be apportioned on the "ability to pay". Why should a less than affluent member of the public not be permitted to call up a first folio of Shakespeare, or an early edition of Chaucer?

That is why for 150 years the Reading Room of the British Museum has been the haunt of those avid for learning, and where the most celebrated of the nation's writers have served their apprenticeship — Wilde, Forster, Carlyle, Orwell, Woolf and Arnold among them. As George Gissing put it in *The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft*: "At a time when I was literally starving in London, when it seemed impossible that I should ever gain a living by my pen, how many days have I spent at the British Museum, reading as disinterestedly as if I had been without a care."

That same history could have been rehearsed by countless other "readers" who have shared the same blessed release. Certainly it should not, in the atmosphere of the new library, become some luxury or privilege to be bought and sold. It is a tradition — one might not put it too strongly to call it a right — which the present generation of librarians and administrators has no justification in disrupting.

John Ruskin, himself a "reader" in the British Museum, once declared that the love and understanding of books were not matters which money could buy; he added also that "the society of books" was one of the few without hierarchies or classes. It would be an act of folly, or despair, to abolish one of the last refuges of such a society. The British Library must remain a free resource for all the people of this country.

If Marx had had to pay, we'd have no *Das Kapital*

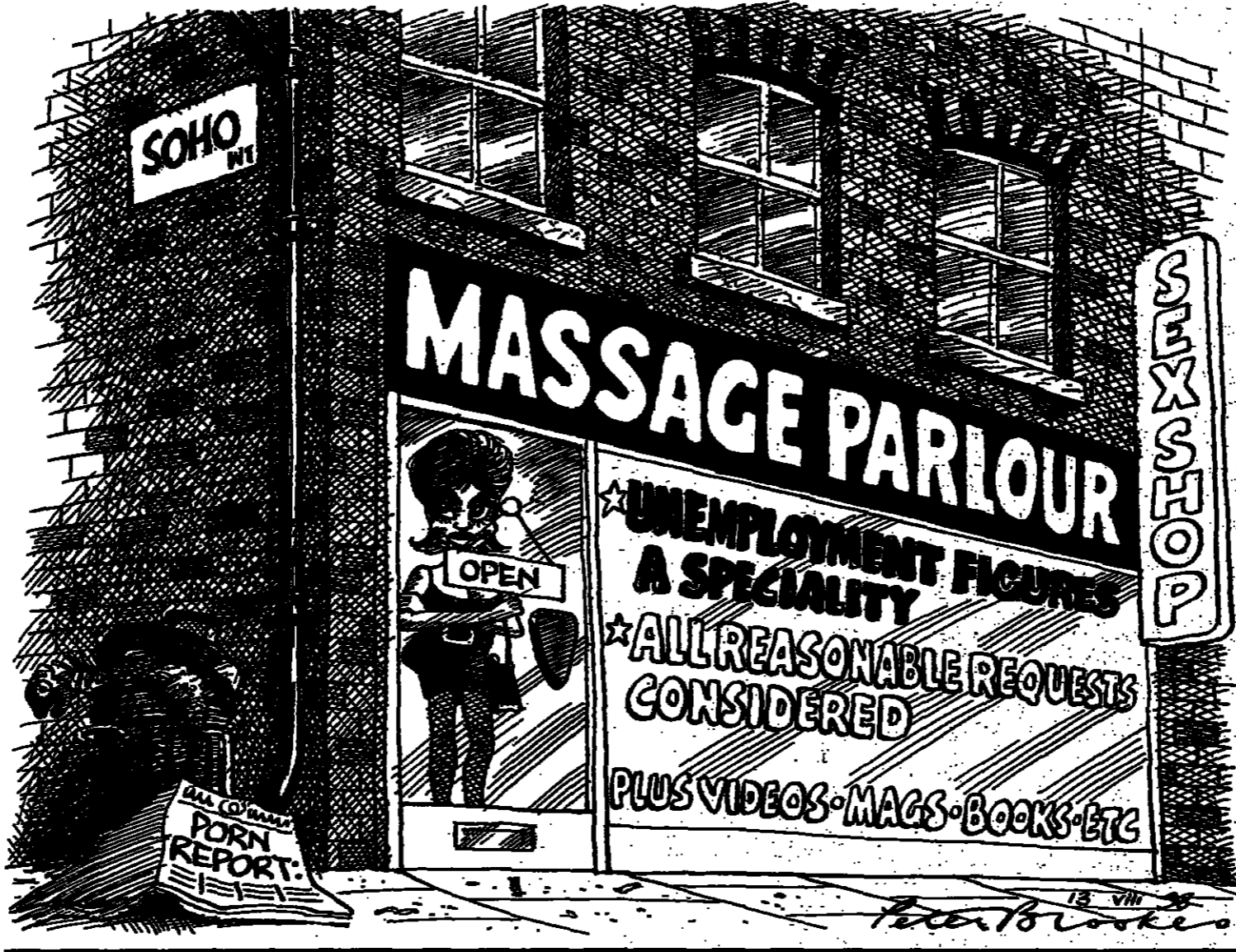
British Museum has been the haunt of those avid for learning, and where the most celebrated of the nation's writers have served their apprenticeship — Wilde, Forster, Carlyle, Orwell, Woolf and Arnold among them.

Not long ago John Prescott was considered a secret weapon — by Conservative Central Office. It was assumed that the middle classes would be terrified by the prospect of Mr Prescott presiding over the country, even in August. Many Labour spin-doctors shared the same sentiment.

It has not worked out that way. Mr Prescott is at the helm, the economy has so far refused to collapse. England has won a Test series and even the weather has taken a turn for the better. The few members of the middle class who are not already overseas do not seem anxious.

If anything many of them are probably grateful for the Prescott interlude. Through his refusal to follow the dictates of the spin-doctors, public relations consultants and other Outja-board merchants who dominate Whitehall and Westminster when Parliament is in session, the Deputy Prime Minister has — curiously — transformed his own image for the better. Gone are the days of the short-tempered, swivel-eyed firebrand who would cross a 12-lane motorway at a rush-hour to start a punch-up. Mr Prescott is now seen by most as a principled and endearingly honest kind of fellow: a sort of cross between Les Dawson and Norman Tebbit.

It is unlikely that Peter Mandelson will view the Deputy Prime Minister in quite such affectionate terms at the moment. Last summer, Mr Prescott and Mr Mandelson were both left minding the store while the Prime Minister went off to soak up the sunshine. This was always going to be a combustible combination. Mr Mandelson had briefly been a researcher for Mr Prescott nearly 20 years ago, before departing for London Weekend Television. He then spent most of the late 1980s trying to keep his



# Acting Prime Minister

Tim Hames on the rise and rise of John Prescott, now firmly in charge

While the chianti slips down Tony Blair's throat in Tuscany, shortly to be followed by carafes of chablis in Gascogne, John Prescott has assumed the trappings of power. Every morning his beloved Jaguar sweeps into Downing Street where the Deputy Prime Minister deals with the paperwork. In the afternoon he slides back across Whitehall and deposits himself at the Department for the Environment, Transport and Regions — an empire only slightly smaller than that accumulated by Alexander the Great.

Not long ago John Prescott was considered a secret weapon — by Conservative Central Office. It was assumed that the middle classes would be terrified by the prospect of Mr Prescott presiding over the country, even in August. Many Labour spin-doctors shared the same sentiment.

It has not worked out that way. Mr Prescott is at the helm, the economy has so far refused to collapse. England has won a Test series and even the weather has taken a turn for the better. The few members of the middle class who are not already overseas do not seem anxious.

If anything many of them are probably grateful for the Prescott interlude. Through his refusal to follow the dictates of the spin-doctors, public relations consultants and other Outja-board merchants who dominate Whitehall and Westminster when Parliament is in session, the Deputy Prime Minister has — curiously — transformed his own image for the better.

It is unlikely that Peter Mandelson will view the Deputy Prime Minister in quite such affectionate terms at the moment. Last summer, Mr Prescott and Mr Mandelson were both left minding the store while the Prime Minister went off to soak up the sunshine.

former boss off television screens during election campaigns. A brief power struggle followed, from which the Minister without Portfolio emerged as the Minister without the Same Reputation. This year Mr Prescott is in charge and willing to prove it.

That has not stopped the new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from hanging around once again during the dog days. If he had hoped to sneak the odd item past the Deputy Prime Minister, then he has been sorely disillusioned. Mr Mandelson's plan to allow British Airways to sell landing rights at Gatwick and Heathrow (despite the fact that these

former boss off television screens during election campaigns. A brief power struggle followed, from which the Minister without Portfolio emerged as the Minister without the Same Reputation. This year Mr Prescott is in charge and willing to prove it.

That has not stopped the new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from hanging around once again during the dog days. If he had hoped to sneak the odd item past the Deputy Prime Minister, then he has been sorely disillusioned.

That has not stopped the new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from hanging around once again during the dog days. If he had hoped to sneak the odd item past the Deputy Prime Minister, then he has been sorely disillusioned.

That has not stopped the new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry from hanging around once again during the dog days. If he had hoped to sneak the odd item past the Deputy Prime Minister, then he has been sorely disillusioned.

Prescott combination first assumed the Labour leadership in 1994, they were quickly christened "Bambi" and "Thumper". As Colin Brown, the Deputy Prime Minister's biographer, astutely noted, a better animal analogy would be the hare and the tortoise. Leaders of the Labour Party have changed but Mr Prescott's policy interests have not. He has advanced or defended them in Government.

The first of those concerns has been public transport. When his White Paper was unveiled last month, Downing Street was quick to emphasise that the motorist had been spared persecution from a left-wing Environment Secretary by a caring Prime Minister. It is true that some of the more radical suggestions were sacrificed for the sake of electoral expediency.

What remains resembles something of a wishlist. However, one crucial principle is still in place: the idea that local councils could levy charges on motorists and retain the proceeds to spend on public transport. The Treasury detests all forms of earmarked taxation. Messrs Prescott and Brown have fought over this for a decade, ever since they were Shadow Transport spokesman and Shadow Chief Secretary respectively. The Prime Minister may have saved "Siera Man" in the short term, but his Deputy has won a long-term victory.

The other great Prescott crusade is regionalism. Nearly three decades of living in London has done nothing to reconcile him to what he once described as the "metropolitan values" that pervade British government.

The Deputy Prime Minister remains convinced of the value of regional assemblies. All other ideas for the reform of local government are regarded as a potentially dangerous distraction from this objective. This includes Tony Blair's enthusiasm, partly inspired by our columnist Simon Jenkins, for powerful elected mayors. The Prescott White Paper on local democracy published in the last few

days of the parliamentary session was a masterpiece of political assassination. The headlines dutifully echoed the Blairite theme of "elected mayors for all". The reality is that only Londoners are likely to get them.

Under the Prescott scheme, local councils will be obliged to put one of three schemes before their electorates. First, they can choose an elected mayor, but that figure would have to construct a "cabinet" exclusively from — and therefore entirely dependent on — councillors. Secondly, they can opt for a figurehead elected mayor, but place real power with a professional manager who would be responsible to the council chamber. Finally, they may instead move to a system where the council (not the voters) selects a leader and he or she selects a cabinet from council colleagues.

The option of a powerful elected mayor, with complete freedom to make important appointments: the model adopted for London and borrowed from the United States, has been excluded. Most councils will adopt the last option — the one that excludes an elected mayor and which most closely resembles the status quo. The Deputy Prime Minister has made a lot of Labour councillors very happy.

That debt could well be called in at a later date. The Prime Minister may be riding high in the opinion polls, but is making internal enemies in the process. Unemployment figures may not yet be rising but the economy will soon turn the corner. Mr Blair's willingness to contemplate proportional representation and a closer relationship with the Liberal Democrats is already causing controversy within the Labour Party. All the spin-doctoring in the world will not preserve the Government's present popularity.

Somewhere inside the Cabinet will come forward to press the case for Labour's traditional stalwarts — the trades unions, councillors and party activists. The Chancellor will be too closely associated with the economic pain to reap any political benefit. Mr Prescott, though, is perfectly placed, to increase his influence. The Prime Minister may yet regret letting his Deputy become so familiar with the levers of power. And the Chancellor will regret it far sooner.

Anatole Kaletsky is away.

## A cross between Norman Tebbit and Les Dawson

marked taxation. Messrs Prescott and Brown have fought over this for a decade, ever since they were Shadow Transport spokesman and Shadow Chief Secretary respectively. The Prime Minister may have saved "Siera Man" in the short term, but his Deputy has won a long-term victory.

The other great Prescott crusade is regionalism. Nearly three decades of living in London has done nothing to reconcile him to what he once described as the "metropolitan values" that pervade British government.

The Deputy Prime Minister remains convinced of the value of regional assemblies. All other ideas for the reform of local government are regarded as a potentially dangerous distraction from this objective. This includes Tony Blair's enthusiasm, partly inspired by our columnist Simon Jenkins, for powerful elected mayors. The Prescott White Paper on local democracy published in the last few

days of the parliamentary session was a masterpiece of political assassination. The headlines dutifully echoed the Blairite theme of "elected mayors for all". The reality is that only Londoners are likely to get them.

Under the Prescott scheme, local councils will be obliged to put one of three schemes before their electorates. First, they can choose an elected mayor, but that figure would have to construct a "cabinet" exclusively from — and therefore entirely dependent on — councillors.

That debt could well be called in at a later date. The Prime Minister may be riding high in the opinion polls, but is making internal enemies in the process. Unemployment figures may not yet be rising but the economy will soon turn the corner.

Edward Welsh

# Return of the silent spring

Derwent May fears crops from the lab are bad for our birds

There are still a few yellowhammers in the farmland hedges singing, as tradition has it, about their "little bit of bread and no cheese". But there is a danger that yellowhammers will soon be waiting that there is no bread and no cheese — and after that, it will not be long before they will all be gone.

The new danger comes from genetically modified farm crops, and what they might do to the insects and weed seeds that so many birds, like yellowhammers, depend on for food. There has already been one near-disaster of this kind since the war, when in the 1960s DDT and other organo-chloride pesticides were sprayed indiscriminately over the fields. Then small birds ate poisoned seeds, and sparrowhawks ate the small birds, and before long the sparrowhawk was practically extinct in Britain. As DDT built up inside their bodies, the deaths of other bird species would undoubtedly have taken place and "silent spring" was averted only by the outcry of conservationists and the banning of DDT.

Now there is the threat of another silent spring. There are at present two main areas of experiment with genetically modified organisms, (GMOs), in agriculture. One is the production of what are called herbicide-resistant crops; experiments are mostly taking place on oilseed rape and sugar beet. What the successful outcome of these experiments would mean is that the new rape or beet would not be affected by very powerful or "broad spectrum" weedkillers, so that farmers could use these on their fields without fear.

If these modifications were extended to all crops, even the remaining weeds in the fields, on whose seeds so many birds still depend, would vanish. Of course "weeds" here usually means what the rest of us would call flowers, such as the big yellow sow-thistles and rusty-red sorrel; at present these are adorning the fields quite spectacularly after the rainy summer, with goldfinches and greenfinches and linnets all coming down in flocks and families to feed on them. Ultimately, all these birds would starve.

The other kind of genetically modified crops that are being introduced are those that produce their own insecticides; insects using these habitually would either die or abandon them. Even if the insects leave them, where will they go if there are no wild plants left? Insects are even more important than seeds to birds in the summer, for linnets and skylarks and other mainly seed-eaters all feed their tender young with insects.

A third danger that is being much talked about at the moment is that the GMOs might, through cross-fertilisation, pass their new features on to other plants, and chemical-resistant "superweeds" might appear in the countryside. However this, it must be said, is mainly a danger for farmers — and rather a cause for cheering for conservationists — especially if the superweeds do not have the gene that repels insects. The great superweeds might become strong, safe homes for butterflies and bees, as well as irreplaceable food sources for birds. However, it is hardly a good idea to trust to that.

Farmland birds are already suffering badly, even though DDT has gone. Outriggered farming practices have hit them. Not so long ago, farmers left their stubble fields all winter, and ploughed them in the spring. Keats's "rosy hue" that fell on them in autumn brought numerous birds to glean on the split grain — even sparrows came out in noisy crowds from the towns — and throughout the winter, weeds flourished on them and produced seeds.

Nowadays the combine harvester goes round relentlessly and not an ear of corn is left on the earth for the gleaners. Then, even before the field is harvested, the ploughing begins again, and soon afterwards the winter corn is planted. Only last week I watched a combine and a plough clattering along side by side on a hilly field in Hertfordshire. There was nothing for small birds there.

Now GMOs carry the threat of taking the deadly process much further. That is why the good folk of Fife were out last March pulling up a mutant crop of oilseed rape and dancing on the field afterwards, and the Aberdonians cut a giant X in a GM rape field in May.

This time, unlike what happened with DDT, we can prevent a potential disaster — if we want to. English Nature has called on the Government and other bodies throughout Europe to carry out long-term testing before deciding whether these crops are acceptable. It adds, tactfully, that "we do not want to reject any potential benefits from these crops".

But that is self-deception. Farmers who use them will be in a head-on clash with wild life. They want to get rid of the insects and weed seeds. So the rest of us must make up our mind whether we can accept any further inroads into the numbers of our birds, butterflies and flowers.

The Edwardian poet Gordon Bottomley wrote: "When you destroy a blade of grass/You poison England at the root." A hundred years on, would he be tempted to write: "When you mutate a blade of grass you poison England at the root?"

# Beatle battle

HELLO!, the magazine that prides itself on being invited into the homes of the rich and famous, has received a formal dressing-down for invading the privacy of Sir Paul McCartney. The Press Complaints Commission has upheld a grievance from the former Beatle that the magazine "intruded into his grief and shock" by publishing pictures of him and his children soon after the death of Linda, his wife. The pictures showed the family walking in Paris and seeking solace inside Notre Dame. A caption explained that they had "lit a candle for Linda and took some time to meditate in peace". Sir Paul complained that his family had been stalked by snappers taking "highly intrusive photographs of us in our most private moments".

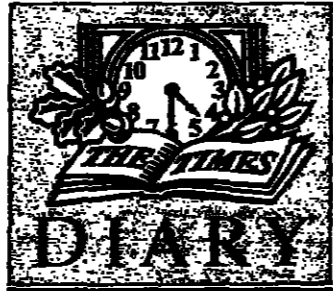
Maggi Koumi, *Hello!* editor, blamed the Marquessa de Varela, her ludicrous boss, back at Spanish HQ, and sent a grovelling letter to Sir Paul. But, despite her obvious mortification, the affair strikes me as curious. Sir Paul and his late wife (pictured), have appeared in the magazine's pages uncounted times. The latest edition contains a six-page tribute to Linda and her works. Celebrities often seek out an appearance in *Hello!* because it pays up to £250,000. The magazine has also only once before had a run-in with the complaints commission, after paying Darius Guppy, the old Etonian fraudster. Of course, we at *Diary Towers* would never dream of stooping so low.



MARY ALLEN, divorced from the Royal Opera House in March, has been made head of the London Marriage Guidance Council. She will take up her new role later this year after completing a book on her time as Covent Garden's soprano. Her first-hand experience of acrimony at the House must have leapt out from her CV.

## Honey money

FOUR members of the Garrick are in line for a double windfall. The club decides this week whether to divide among its members the multimillion-pound offer by Walt Disney for the institution's share of A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh royalties. Paul Scherer, Johnathan Lloyd, Giles Gordon and Michael Shaw would not just pocket £40,000 each. Curtis Brown, of which all four are directors, would also get up to £20 million as the agent for Milne's estate.



club decides this week whether to divide among its members the multimillion-pound offer by Walt Disney for the institution's share of A.A. Milne's Winnie the Pooh royalties. Paul Scherer, Johnathan Lloyd, Giles Gordon and Michael Shaw would not just pocket £40,000 each. Curtis Brown, of which all four are directors, would also get up to £20 million as the agent for Milne's estate.

My colleagues believe there could be a conflict of interest so they are deliberately keeping their distance from the Garrick debate," says my friend at Curtis Brown. "But they will be delighted with a few quid." One colleague at the firm of literary agents, however, is less happy: Elizabeth Stevens, who has personally handled Milne's publishing rights for many years, will miss out because as a woman she has never been invited to join the men-only club.

AS A splendid summer-house goes up on his Surrey estate, the Sultan of Brunei has become anxious about his workmen drinking English water. So, to protect their sensitive palates, the world's second richest man has been kindly flying over his private jumbo jet, filled with water from his South East Asian kingdom.

## Hidden art

CHILDHOOD daubings by Edith Cavell, the nurse executed by the Germans in 1915, have been unearthed in a Norfolk church. The charming watercolours and chalk drawings, one of which I display below, have been hanging in obscurity in the church near her birthplace for many decades, but were neglected and deteriorating. Now



the locals in Swardston, who are newly aware of the paintings' provenance, have sent them off for restoration and plan to rehang them. "With the right encouragement she might have been important in art," says Barry Levett, the restorer. "But her desire to look after others took her in a different direction."

YET more opportunities for Cocker-esque angst: the lank cultural icon is considering temporarily taking a break from *Pulp*, his band, to direct a movie. Jarvis has been talking to *Toby Litt* about filming *Beatniks*, his novel about wannabe drop-outs from Bedford. But will the Common People appreciate his new creative urges?

## Transplanted

SADLY, Lady Lennox-Boyd is today missing the unveiling of her greatest work. The garden designer was asked by Lord Poulton to do the landscaping atop his City development at No.1 Poultry which is opening this week as Sir Terence Conran's newest eatery. To celebrate, architects and designers are joining the Conran clan for a jolly bash tonight.

But Lady L.B. has excused herself, citing her own family get-together. Our disclosure last month that her garden at the Chelsea Flower Show, which won a Gold Medal,



owed more to imitation than inspiration did not, I am assured, play a part in her missing the event.

MISSY VAN RANDWYCK likes to scare men. The baroness (above), who used to grace the boards at Madame Jo-Jo's in Soho and is appearing at the Chichester Festival in Song of Singapore, enjoys puffing on a cigar for a reason. "I smoke them because they intimidate men," she explains. "They are always rather stunned when I ask them to light my cigar."

Edward Welsh

UNCONSCIOUS

IDEAL HOMES







SOCIAL NEWS

The Queen will visit France on Wednesday, November 11, and unveil a statue of Sir Winston Churchill in Paris. Her Majesty will also attend a ceremony in Paris to mark Remembrance Day and the 80th Anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Professor Sir Charles Frank

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Sir Charles Frank, FRS, Fellow of the Royal Society and Professor Emeritus of the University of Bristol, who died on April 5, 1998, will be held in Bristol Cathedral on Wednesday, November 4, at 11.00am.

Birthdays today

Miss Sheila Armstrong, soprano, 56; Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Beavis, 69; Marquess Camden, 68; President Fidel Castro, Cuba, 71; Father Leo Chamberlain, OSB, Headmaster, Ampleforth College, 58; Mr Domenico Dolce, fashion designer, 40; Mr Roy Evans, trade unionist, 67; Miss Marie Helvin, model, 46; Mr Tony Jarrett, athlete, 30; Sir Thomas Legg, QC, former Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Department, 63; Mr C.A. Lyons, trade unionist, 69; Sir John Milne, former chairman, Blue Circle Industries, 74; Lord Oram, 85; Mr Mark Pypier, Headmaster, Gordons-town School, 51; Lord Sainsbury, 96; Dr Frederick Sanger, OM, CH, FRS, biochemist, 80; Mr Alan Shearer, England football captain, 28; Mr George Shearing, pianist, 79.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: James Gillray, caricaturist, London, 1756; Queen Adelaide, Consort of King William IV, Meiningen, 1792; Sir George Grove, engineer and editor of the music dictionary bearing his name, London, 1820; Annie Oakley, rifle marksman, Ohio, 1860; John Nicholson Ireland, composer, Bowdoin, Chesire, 1879; John Lodge Baird, pioneer of television, Helensburgh, Strathclyde, 1888; Sir Alfred Hitchcock, film director-producer, Leytonstone, London, 1899; Sir Basil Spence, architect, Bombay, India, 1907. DEATHS: Sir John Millais, Bt, President of the Royal Academy 1896, London, 1896; Ira David Sankey, evangelist, 1908; Florence Nightingale, hospital reformer, London, 1910; Jules Massenet, composer, Paris, 1912; H.G. Wells, writer, London, 1946. The Cape of Good Hope was ceded to Britain by the Dutch, 1814. Wagner's Der Ring des Nibelungen was first performed in its entirety, Bayreuth, 1876. Victory of the Duke of Marlborough at Blenheim, 1704. Construction of the Berlin Wall was started, at first with barbed wire, 1961. The last executions in Britain took place when two men were hanged at Walton prison, Liverpool, and Strangeways, Manchester, 1964.

370 Pals who died on first day of the Somme get a memorial at last

By PAUL WILKINSON

THEY called them the Pals. Groups of patriotic friends from all over the country who answered without question the First World War appeal from Lord Kitchener: Your Country Needs You. Many paid the ultimate price in the trenches for their loyalty. Most are honoured

today with battlefield memorials, but one group's sacrifice in the bloody battle of the Somme in 1916 has gone unremembered. The Barnsley Pals were 450 volunteers who joined the 13th and 14th battalions of the York and Lancaster Regiment. Most were miners from the Yorkshire coalfield and all but 80 were killed on the first day of the assault on the German lines.



George Wardle, Barnsley Pals leader and father of Jack



Captain Tom Guest, one of the first over the top

The last survivor died seven years ago with his friends still unacknowledged outside their town. But now a permanent tribute has been created to those mown down in no man's land by machine-gun fire. It will stand alongside existing cenotaphs for groups like the Sheffield, Bradford and Accrington Pals who all received fitting memorials after the war.

Local businesses in Barnsley, the council, war veterans and townspeople of all ages have raised £2,500 to ensure that their memory lives on. Stonemason has fashioned a memorial out of black granite which will be blessed and then shipped out to Picardy in Northern France. There it will be erected in a park overlooking the battlefield in time for the 80th anniversary in October of the end of the war.



Jack Wardle, a former Royal Marine who helped to organise the memorial to the 370 of the 450 Barnsley Pals who were killed on the first day of the Somme



Brave volunteers: a group of the Barnsley Pals with their mascot Buller

was one of the blackest days in the British Army's history. The Barnsley Pals were reserves for the first wave of troops in the fateful "Big Push" on July 1, 1916, near the village of Serre in Picardy. Left behind by the heavy artillery, the Pals were ordered to go "over the top" but as they advanced in near silence they were simply cut down. Graphic accounts from survivors are recorded in the book Barnsley Pals by Leo

Cooper. One man said: "I remember the lads laid in rows as if they had gone to sleep". Within a few hours the British Army had lost 19,000 dead, 38,000 wounded and 500 taken prisoner. Mr Wardle, 77, a former Royal Marine, said: "My father always said the Somme was a terrible, nearly all the Pals attacked Serre which was heavily fortified by the Germans and were annihilated. They were like

lamb to the slaughter". Many of those who died in action are buried at Serre. Fred Wright, the Mayor of Barnsley, said: "It is a fitting tribute to those who laid down their lives for their country". The stone memorial bears the red and white roses of York and Lancaster, Barnsley's coat of arms and the regimental crest with the words "Their name liveth forever more".

Marriages

Mr B.E. Brunton and Miss E.L. Manges. The marriage took place on Saturday, August 8, 1998, at St Nicholas' Church, Stevenage. Between Mr Benjamin Brunton, younger son of Mr and Mrs Michael Brunton of Allington, Wiltshire, and Miss Elizabeth Manges, eldest daughter of Mr Jack Manges and Mrs Bonnie Manges, of Texas, USA. The Rev Michael Kenning officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Miss Alexandra Manges, Miss Jennifer Dixon, Miss Clare Brunton and Miss Victoria Brunton. Mr Ross Neville was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bridegroom and the honeymoon is being spent abroad. The Rev C.H. Lowless and Miss N.L. Bawcutt. The marriage took place on August 8, 1998, at St Mary's Church, Covington, West Sussex. The Rev Christopher Lowless, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Colin Lowless, to Miss Natalie Bawcutt, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Bawcutt. A reception was held at Ham Manor and the honeymoon is being spent in Italy. Lieutenant P.D. Nash, RN, and Miss R.L. Neville Smith. The marriage took place on August 8 at the Church of St John the Baptist, Bodicote, to Miss Rebecca Neville Smith, daughter of Mr Axel Neville Smith, of La Garde Freinet, Var, and Mrs Linda Johnson, of Bolton.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E.L. Chaplin and Miss L.C. Beebe. The engagement is announced between Edward, younger son of Mr and Mrs Steven Chaplin, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, and Lucy, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Meyrick Beebe, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire. Mr A.N.J. Falzon and Miss E.H. Low. The engagement is announced between Alexander, elder son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Joseph Falzon, of Ford, Wiltshire, and Elizabeth, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Low, of Buxton, Derbyshire.

Mr S.M. Hayes and Miss S.E. Young. The engagement is announced between Stephen Michael, son of Mr and Mrs David Hayes, of Watford, Hertfordshire, and Shauna Elspeth, daughter of the late Mr David Halliday and of Mrs Dorothy Halliday, of Morebathie, Dorsetshire. Mr D.E. Jones and Miss C.J.E. Bardwell. The engagement is announced between David, only son of the late Mr William Jones and of Mrs Jones, of East Yorkshire, and Catherine, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicholas Bardwell, of Richmond, Surrey. Mr S.D. Lloyd-Evans and Miss M.-L.M. Mahony. The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs David Lloyd-Evans, of Ropley, Hampshire, and Lucia, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Jerome Mahony, of County Galway, Ireland.

Mr A.M. McCulloch and Miss E.R. Conington. The engagement is announced between Alan, son of Mrs Joyce McCulloch and the late Mr Ronald McCulloch, of Liverpool, and Sarah (Connie) daughter of Mrs F. Macklin Bremner and the late Mr David Conington, of East Knot, Wiltshire. Mr P.D. Richards and Miss J.M. Harker. The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of Mr T. Richards, of Exmouth, Devon, and the late Mrs M. Richards, and Juliet, daughter of Mr and Mrs Quentin Harker, of Sevensok, Kent.

Mr D.M. Sadler and Miss N.J. Turnbull. The engagement is announced between David Mark, son of Mr and Mrs P.D. Sadler, of Blackpool, Lancashire, and Nicola Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs N.V. Turnbull, of East Claydon, Buckinghamshire. Mr T.S. Stewart Forthingham and Dr A.C. Macdonald. The engagement is announced between Thomas, elder son of Robert Stewart Forthingham of Bourne and the late Mrs Stewart Forthingham, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Neil Macdonald, of Kilmarston, Renfrewshire. Mr P.A.W. Thompson and Miss R.J. Pringle. The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Dr and Mrs Geoffrey Thompson, of Grestion, Northamptonshire, and Rebecca, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs David Pringle, of St Helier, Jersey.

Mr J.M. Wootton and Miss R.C. Campbell. The engagement is announced between Julian, son of Mr and Mrs Mark Wootton, of Westminster, London, and Rose, daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel C.M. Campbell, RAMC, and of Dr Geoffrey Campbell, of Liss, Hampshire.

University news

Oxford University prizes. The Robert Pickers Dermaology prize 1998 has been awarded to Miranda Jane Higgins, Green College. The John Potter Essay prize 1998 has been awarded to Edwin Malcolm Robertson, Lincoln College. The Robert Duthie prize in Orthopaedics 1998 has been awarded to Robin David Proctor, Balliol College.

Latest wills

James William Clement, chartered accountant, of North Chalfont, East Sussex, left estate valued at £6,837,404 net. Dorothy Bety Beard, of Redbrook, Shrewsbury, left estate valued at £539,572 net. Roderic Neil Curtis Bentley, of Bowness-on-Windermere, Cumbria, left estate valued at £1,403,693 net. Cyril Fenton Blake, of Willington, Eastbourne, East Sussex, left estate valued at £606,986 net.

Robert Charles Bradburn, of Albrighton, Shropshire, left £1,639,603 net. Annie Croft, of Thornhill, Dewsbury, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,097,659 net. Lucy Elliott Delaney, of London W9, left estate valued at £1,307,643 net. The late Mrs J. United Reform Church, London WC1. Claire Rose Elson, of London NW8, left estate valued at £1,826,803 net. She left £2,000 to the British Red Cross.

Francis Percy Goodbody, of Sittingbourne, Kent, left estate valued at £1,081,411 net. He left £2,000 to Borden Village Hall, £500 to Stubbury Wesleyan Church, £500 to Stubbury Wesleyan Church, £250 to Borden Cricket Club. Edward Gregory, of Liverpool, left estate valued at £817,354 net. He left £5,000 each to Friends Service Council of London, NW1, Save the Children Fund, Oxford, War on Want, National Council for Voluntary Action, Friends of the Earth, National Trust, National Council for the Sights of the Blind, Guide Dogs for the Blind, and The Mountain Rescue Committee.

Dorothy Mabel Hodson, of Burcot, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, left £1,000,833 net. Bruce Hamilton Kibble, of Buckingham, left estate valued at £581,530 net. William Henry Tatton, of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, left estate valued at £225,402 net. He left £2,000 each to Sturston, Sturston and Holywood Church, Sturston, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Leicestershire, and the Christian and Missionary Alliance. William Meyrick Turnook, of Stopham, West Sussex, left estate valued at £637,063 net.

Church news

The Ven Richard Michael Cokayne Frith, Archdeacon of Taunton, diocese of Bath and Wells, has been appointed to the Suffragan See of Hull, diocese of York, in succession to the Right Rev James Stuart Jones on his translation to the See of Liverpool. The Rev Alan Boddy, Chaplain, HMP Highdown, will be Chaplain, HMP Wormwood Scrubs. The Rev David Cook, Team Rector, Newbury (Oxford), will be also Rural Dean of Newbury (same diocese). The Rev Michael Costerell, Vicar, Locking (Bath and Wells); to be Vicar, Slough St Paul (Oxford). The Rev John Cole, Priest-in-Charge, Alne (York); to be Priest-in-Charge, Brafferton w. Pilmoor, Myton on Swale and Thornaby (same diocese).

Downside Abbey

Dom Richard Yeo has been elected Abbot of Downside.

Great Highland music from the finest pipers

FROM ANGUS NICOL DUNVEGAN, SCYRE

MacKenzie, the author of a recent book on pibroch, said it is no easy matter to judge between one performance and another at this level of playing. But of the five tunes played, two stood out from the rest. The Silver Chanter was presented this year to Roderick MacLeod, who played I got a kiss of the King's hand. This tune, Bridget MacKenzie told us, was not the work of Patrick Mor MacCrimmon, as has long been thought. It was composed by John MacCrimmon, piper to the Earl of Sutherland in Strathgairn in 1651. He was acknowledged as the greatest piper present, was presented to the King, and thereupon composed this well-known tune. Dr Angus MacDonald, who won the Silver Chanter last year, played The MacDonaldu's Salute, one of three tunes by Donald Mor MacCrimmon, piper to MacLeod from 1620 to 1640, which

marked a long and bitter dispute between the MacDonaldu's and the MacLeods. The other two tunes are The MacLeods' Salute and The MacLeods' Controversy. Dr Angus played the Donald MacDonaldu setting of this tune. Colin MacLellan won the Silver Chanter in 1990 and 1991. This year he played MacLeod of Colbeck's Lament. This is not a MacCrimmon tune, having been composed by John MacKay, on the death between 1810 and 1820 of John MacLeod of Colbeck. He was the son of John MacLeod of Colbeck (in Jamaica) and the daughter of the 8th Chief of Raasay. It is a very long time since a MacCrimmon played before a Chief of MacLeod in the great hall of Dunvegan Castle, which the drawing-room once was. Euan MacCrimmon, a descendant of the family of hereditary pipers to MacLeod, playing in the Silver Chanter

for the first time, played Mrs MacLeod of Talisker's Salute. No one knows for which of the two wives of Colonel John MacLeod of Talisker his tune was composed. It was the work of Donald Ruadh MacCrimmon, probably in the late 1790s. Duncan MacGillivray, also playing in this recital for the first time, played the famous tune Rory MacLaoidhe's Lament. This lament, by Patrick Mor MacCrimmon, was not for Ruairidh Mór MacLeod, but for the 15th Chief, Ruairidh Mir (spurring Rory), who died in 1665. The adjudicator was Donald MacPherson, himself one of the leading pibroch players in this century. The Silver Chanter was presented to Roderick MacLeod by Mrs Grant Gordon, wife of the past chairman of William Grant & Son Ltd, for many years generous contributors to this and other piping events.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982 FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS

BARRETT - Dennis. Wilberforce, M.B.E., M.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.R.O.C. Suddenly at home in his 85th year on Sunday 9th August aged 85. Beloved husband of Gillian (née Williams), much loved father of Brian and Ann and grandfather of Katherine, Rosemary, Suzanne, Alan and Arthur, father-in-law of Eugenie and Dominic and grandfather-in-law of Joseph. After distinguished wartime service in Coastal Forces he became a General Medical Practitioner in Bletchingley, Banbury and Carlisle moving to Haywards when he retired from medicine. He is sadly missed by all his family, his many friends and former patients. Burial at St. Peter's Church, Kingston, Warwick, on Wednesday 22nd September at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal British Legion c/o A.E. Bennett and Sons Funeral Directors, 34 Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6EE.

BLOMFIELD - Rowan. On August 10th second daughter of the late Wilmet and Lelia Blomfield. Much loved sister, aunt and great aunt. Funeral service at Stoke Poges Church on August 24th at 11.00am, followed by burial at St James Church, Gerrards Cross. Family flowers only. Donations if wished in aid of Stoke Poges Church, c/o The Vicar.

BLOTT - Colonel Robert Victor BLOTT O.B.E., T.D. On 8th August 1998 after a long illness, aged 77 years. Beloved husband of Kate and of the late Mary. Loving father to Jeremy and Hugo. Private cremation. Funeral service at St. Peter's Church, Kingston, Warwick, on Wednesday 22nd September at 2.30pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Royal British Legion c/o A.E. Bennett and Sons Funeral Directors, 34 Sheep Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 6EE.

CANNON - John Michael, on August 7th 1998 suddenly in hospital. Mike aged 55 years of Manchester. Deeply loved and much missed husband of Marie, and father of John and Paul. The funeral service and committal will be held at the Manchester Crematorium on Tuesday August 18th at 2.00pm. No flowers please, donations preferred to the Critical Care Nurses Study Fund at MBE. All enquiries and donations to Charles Robb and Sons Tel: 0161 224 1200.

FALLONER - Mary (née Cameron), aged 85, peacefully on August 9th 1998 at Peterborough. Deeply loved and much missed wife of L. Col. Peter Wallace Fallonier O.B.E. Loving mother of David and John. Beloved sister of John Cameron and the late David, a much loved aunt and great aunt. Donations please to NABS, Peterborough Road, East Sussex, TN40 2EF.

FRANKLAND-MOORE - Peacefully on August 7th 1998, Dr Violet Elizabeth Frankland-Moore, OBE, D.L.D., aged 99 years. Chairman of SINO-British Fellowship Trust, Hon. Director of Appeal of the SINO-UK Trust. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service at Peterborough Crematorium on Friday 21st August 1998 at 2.00pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to BLESMA, c/o E. Larner and Son, 74 Upper Richmond Road, SW15 6TU. (Tel: 0181 788 2942). A memorial service will be held at a later date.

GIBSON - Anne-Marie (née de Selincourt), suddenly in Buenos Aires on August 12th 1998. Deeply loved mother of Robert, Clemency and Alexander and grandmother of Marina, Flora and William. A very special person who will be so very much missed by family and friends.

HOBBS - Vernon Douglas, peacefully of Farnham in Southampton on Thursday, 6th November 1997, aged 83. Beloved husband of Dee and fond stepfather of Claire and Stephen. Deeply loved and sadly missed by his wife, Leticia, children, Lorraine, Michael, Bernard and Stephen, grandchildren Olivia, Zachary and Joel.

JEWELL - Bridget, Teresa, Veronica (née Hayes), peacefully at St. Raphael's, Belmont, on 10th August 1998 after a courageous battle against cancer. Beloved wife of John. Funeral to be held at 2.00pm on 17th August at St. Mary's Church, Wargrave. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Sea Rayles Home, c/o E. Larner and Son, 74 Upper Richmond Road, SW15 6TU. (Tel: 0181 788 2942). A memorial service will be held at a later date.

JONES - Marjorie Elizabeth, peacefully at her home on 12th August 1998, beloved wife of the late Air Vice Marshal Richard Jones. Funeral service to be held at the Jersey Crematorium, on Monday 24th August at 10.00am. Family flowers only or donations in lieu may be sent to Jersey Hospice Care, c/o Mr L. Richardson, Route 6, P.O. Box 79, Les Garennes, St Helier, JE4 8TT.

LYDDON - Frank, Civil Engineer and Accountant. Beloved of his wife Percy and children David, Mary, Anne and Claire, much loved father, law and grandfather, died at home in the peace of Christ in the presence of his family on August 11th. Reception two hours on Friday 14th August at 8.00pm. Requiem Mass to be celebrated on Monday August 17th at 11.30am. Followed by burial at Putney Vale Cemetery, Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to George Thomas Hospice Care, 10 Ty Gwyn Road, Penylan, Cardiff.

MEYER - Elizabeth, peacefully on Tuesday 11th August 1998, dear wife of the late Harold Trinder and beloved mother of Stephen. Funeral service at St. Mary's Church, Stoke Bishop, on Monday 17th August at 12.15pm, followed by private cremation. No flowers please, but donations in her memory may be made to the Frances Taylor Hospice Unit, Upper Wyke Place, Clifton, Bristol.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

RALPH

JOHN



PERSONAL



OBITUARIES

RALPH RICKETTS

Ralph Ricketts, novelist, died on July 25 aged 95. He was born on October 12, 1902.

When Ralph Ricketts wrote, at the age of 70, that he found it hard to accept that old age was not an illness from which he would recover, the remark was both wistful and hopeful.

Because as a novelist he dealt with Catholic themes, he was inevitably compared with Graham Greene and Evelyn Waugh, both favourites of his. One of Ricketts's novels, The Marikin (1956), was put by a reviewer into "the same class as Anthony Powell and L. P. Hartley", and the accolades continued with a popular translation into French and blacklisting in Ireland (along with Diamonds are Forever).

novelist had not been realised or recognised.

Ralph Robert Ricketts was born into a family of Indian Army officers who played polo when not bagging tigers. In his early years his mother read to him from the religious booklet Peeps of the Day, but the excitement became too much when he leapt from bed with the cry "I must see God! I must see God!" His parents returned to India when he was five, leaving relatives to prepare him, after a fashion, for prep school.

He was thereafter sent to Winchester — the fifth generation of his family to go there — where he set enduring high and long-jump records. But he always resented what he saw as the school's suspicion of originality, saying: "All Winchester does for you is turn you into an Old Wykehamist."

He left school a year early to join his parents on the Bosphorus, where he was a great success with the officers' wives and could indulge his passions for riding and dancing. But the excitement was too much for him; he became ill and was sent back to the tranquillity of Hampshire with his mother.

His looks were such that during his interview for Magdalen College, Oxford, one of the dons did nothing but sketch him; yet Ricketts was never entirely well during his university years. David Cecil became a friend, and generally he moved with the smart set, to whom he introduced the Ruthven twins and the Guinness girls, Aileen, Maureen and Oonagh. Together they enjoyed the balls of the London season, at which the pretty girls were all "English



Ricketts the novelist never felt fulfilled

roses", while unattractive ones were "Pont Street". After Oxford, Ricketts failed his medical for the Coldstream Guards and spent time trying to regain his health before touring Germany for some months with a German actor. Eventually, after eight years, he was diagnosed as suffering from amoebic dysentery, which left a permanent mark

Meanwhile, ever susceptible to the intoxication of beautiful girls on summer nights, he was several times engaged and disengaged. Eventually, he was introduced to J. C. Squire, the editor and founder of the London Mercury (by then an alcoholic), who gave him a job, published his reviews, and encouraged him to finish a

novel. Much to his surprise, A Lady Leaves Home was accepted by E. V. Lucas of Methuen, and brought him an enthusiastic letter from Somerset Maugham.

Yet Ricketts was increasingly disturbed by a lack of purpose and the emptiness of society which was the theme of his second novel, Camilla (1936). He bought a house with Martin Cooper — subsequently the music critic of The Daily Telegraph — and together they visited almost every church in London, before plunging for Roman Catholicism. Ricketts found the sense of "presence" he had been seeking in "a little, rather squalid church in St John's Wood".

At the beginning of the war he also found the girl he had been waiting for, Margaret Royds, and they married in 1940. He was still, however, unfit for military service. He and his wife moved to Budleigh Salterton, Devon, and took to market gardening and raising pigs. His last novel, Henry's Wife, is set in Venice and a thinly disguised Budleigh Salterton.

Ricketts felt that the experimental writing of the 1960s was a blind alley, and considered that the modern trend in art and music was to suppress individuality. He believed that we are designed to inhabit two realms at once. In his last book, Bid the World Good-night (1981), a gathering of thoughts on age and death, he wrote that the allure of worldly things and loves remains undimmed, but more spiritual aspirations became ever stronger.

He is survived by his wife and three sons.

HENRI ZIEGLER

Henri Ziegler, French aircraft pioneer behind the Concorde and the Airbus, died in Paris on July 23 aged 91. He was born on November 18, 1906.



Fortunately for the taxpayer, Ziegler's attempts to persuade Europeans and Americans to collaborate in building an even bigger supersonic jet came to nothing, in the face of Boeing's opposition and that of the American environmental lobby, which had fought off Concorde.

Ziegler, formerly a French Air Force test pilot and a leading figure in the wartime French Resistance, realised early that France had to collaborate with other European countries if it was to compete with the American aviation giants. This attitude drew strong criticism from Gaullists and the "go-it-alone" faction within the French aircraft industry, proud of having developed the Caravelle rear-engine jet in the mid-1950s.

Ziegler once told The Times that his calls in 1969 for co-operation across Europe led to his being carpeted at the Transport Ministry. "My Minister called me in and said 'You are a traitor to your country'." There had also been British opposition to Airbus, but Ziegler prevailed and Airbus's special multinational Groupement d'Interet Economique structure was launched in 1970.

The minister obviously knew little about his man. Ziegler, who graduated from the Ecole Polytechnique and the Ecole Supérieure Nationale de l'Aeronautique, became deputy director prewar of the French Air Force's flight test centre: 1,000 of his 5,000 hours

in the air were as a test pilot.

After travelling to the United States in 1939 on a procurement mission for planes and parts, he returned to France after the fall of the country to join the Resistance. Sent to London at one stage, he helped to train the embryonic Free French Air Force. Back in France, he rose to become chief of staff to General Pierre Koenig, head of the Forces Françaises de l'Intérieur.

He headed Air France until 1954, before working with his old Resistance colleague Jacques Chaban-Delmas, a minister in the governments of Pierre Mendès-France and Guy Mollet. He also played a significant backroom role in promoting French nuclear weapons.

After a decade heading the Breguet aircraft company, he joined the Caravelle maker Sud Aviation in Toulouse in 1968 and helped to reorganise the industry. Sud Aviation was later absorbed by Socié Nationale Industrielle Aérospatiale, later Aerospatiale. Ziegler was managing director of Airbus Industrie from 1970 to 1978. He was extremely tough when it came to dealing with politicians, but had a dry sense of humour. After the chaotic Franco-British development of Concorde, he forged a multinational team at Toulouse which pushed Airbus onto world markets. Roger Beetzle was the engineer behind Airbus, but without Ziegler's drive and managerial skills the aircraft in its various versions would not have gone on to its present success. Under him, and with a strong political will to show Europe as united whatever the cost, Airbus Industrie operated in a unique manner, with parts being flown in from Britain, Germany and Spain to be assembled in Toulouse.

Ziegler, who had ended the war with the rank of General, was recipient of the Croix de Guerre, Legion d'honneur and an honorary CBE. He is survived by his wife, three sons and a daughter.

JOHN AITKENHEAD

John Aitkenhead, founder and headmaster of Kilquhanity House School, Scotland, died on July 21 aged 88. He was born on May 21, 1910.



Aitkenhead in the grounds of Kilquhanity School, which he founded and ran for 50 years

AS A young teacher in Darvel, Ayrshire, John Aitkenhead was troubled by what he saw in Scotland's schools. He would later write that even he had used the belt — "sparingly" — between 1935 and 1940. But his misgivings, a meeting with A. S. Neill, the head of Summerhill ("the freest school in the world") and the Second World War combined to inspire him to open his own school.

In September 1940, with the war in its darkest days and a warning from Neill that a progressive boarding school in Scotland would not work, he and his wife Morag purchased Kilquhanity House, with an estate and farm near Kirkpatrick Durham in Galloway. The school opened in September of that year. It was to last until 1997.

John Marjoribanks Aitkenhead attended Eglington School until he won a bursary to Ardrossan Academy. He then studied at Glasgow University, taking degrees in both English and the recently recognised subject of education. As a member of the Peace Pledge Union, he was brought, in the early days of the war, before five tribunals

for his conscientious objection. "We were against war, violence, corporal punishment, uniforms... In fact, we were largely against the Government," he said later. He had to admit, though, that if Hitler had invaded, he would have had to reconsider.

Of the founding days, Aitkenhead wrote: "I was for complete freedom and the children would have run the school." Second thoughts began when the pupils decided to abolish bedtime. After two sleepless

nights he found a pupil fast asleep in a laundry basket, and persuaded the sleepy-heads to reinstate bedtimes. Lessons, too, would eventually become compulsory — though Neill would tease him about this. How free was a pupil who could not read or write, he replied.

Property was owned in common, with such goods as cigarettes drawn from a communal pool. A farm was started and gardening was encouraged. The motto was "Liberty,

Equality and efficiency", because, Aitkenhead observed, "Revolutions that are efficient always end up killing people". War gave the school an unexpected boost. Galloway was not on any bomber routes and worried parents who might otherwise have had second thoughts about sending their children to such a school decided it was a safe haven. Some locals were less kind. On a number of occasions, staff and pupils were subjected to taunts of "bloody cochies", and

Aitkenhead and some of the staff were once beaten up for their beliefs.

The focal point of the school was always the weekly council meeting, attended by cook, farmhand, teachers, pupils and all, and chaired by a pupil, who could be as young as ten. "John A" never took the chair and had only one vote, though he might try to impose his will with what he called "an overruling proposal". From time to time his wife and children would vote him down.

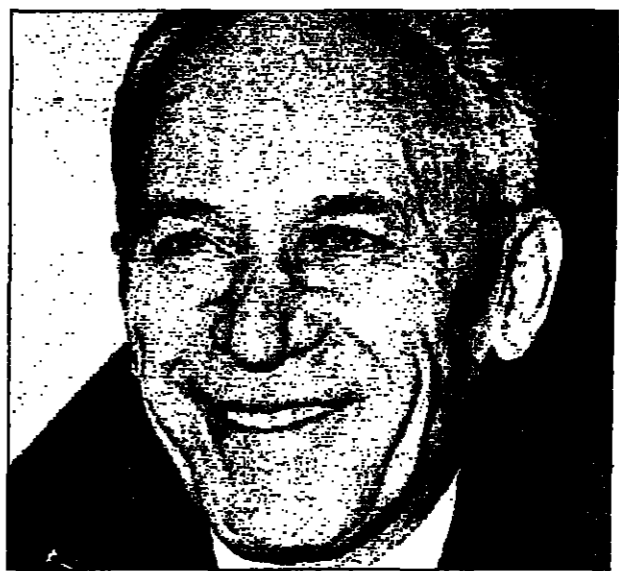
He was a wonderfully practical teacher. Making a new mast for the school's sailing dinghy became a geometry lesson, with the classroom floor used as a blackboard. Along with the American educator Paul Goodman, Aitkenhead understood that literacy was not as simple as ABC. Curiosity about why one of his own children had serious difficulties in reading and writing led him to take an interest in dyslexia many years before it became fashionable, and when asked how he had made a non-reader into a reader within a few months, he replied: "I just took him on my knee and read with him."

He also came to terms with a pupil who had created his own alphabet. He learnt it so as to be able to correct any mistakes the pupil made when using it, and this way the child was gradually introduced to the conventional alphabet. Nevertheless, even with its low fees — and John's decision to charge for twins as one, and occasionally to offer half price for girls, when the school looked like becoming a boys' school by default — Kilquhanity often teetered on the edge of bankruptcy. The final years were troubled, with disagreements about the future. Ultimately, it was the school inspectors who did for Kilquhanity, with new standards of safety that could not be afforded — and which ran contrary to the philosophy of freedom. Last year, Aitkenhead decided the school had run its course.

He is survived by his wife, Morag, and two sons and two daughters.

ISIDORE KERMAN

Isidore Kerman, former chairman of Plumpton and Fontwell Park racecourses, died on July 23, aged 93. He was born on March 13, 1905.



IT WAS Isidore Kerman's profession as a solicitor that led directly to his zest for racing. During the 1930s he dealt with divorce proceedings on behalf of the leading jockey Tommy Weston, and as a result, Weston was instrumental in Kerman becoming an owner.

On his behalf 320 guineas was paid at the Doncaster sales for a yearling by the 1925 Derby winner, Manna. Kerman promptly named him Kybo, an acronym that dated from his school days at Cheltenham College, when his mother used to urge him at the end of every letter to "Keep your bowels open". It was an unusual name for a thoroughbred, yet with various additions it continued to be used for succeeding horses throughout Kerman's long career on the turf. Kybo also became his firm's telegraphic address and, at Plumpton, the jumping course in Sussex, the Kybo stand was the £1.25 million climax of a rebuilding programme initiated by Kerman after he became chairman in the 1960s.

This, in turn, had come about in 1961 when, with his great friend Sir Ronald Howe, head of the CID, he acquired an 80 per cent majority shareholding in the pleasant little racecourse. He had discovered that it was owned by an old man who was willing to sell on condition that he remained chairman. When the old man died not long afterwards, Kerman succeeded him. The acquisition of his other course, Fontwell Park, also in Sussex and also devoted exclusively to National Hunt racing, was the subject of yet

more research and an inspired piece of one-upmanship on the part of Kerman. Goodwood racecourse was interested in taking over neighbouring Fontwell and, in 1970, made an offer of 21 shillings per share. But, knowing that this offer was being made by mail, Kerman wrote out cheques for 25 shillings a share and had them driven round to the five majority shareholders well before the following day's postal delivery, which yielded a most satisfying result. It was only in March this year that Kerman gave up the family financial stake in the two courses.

Isidore Kerman had originally been articled to a City firm at the age of 16, and five years later he founded his own concern. His racing interest started within a decade, the original Kybo performing very well, and a subsequent horse of the same name doing even better, becoming a winner of no fewer than 14 mostly high-class races before suf-

fering a fatal accident. His trainer, Josh Clifford, remains convinced that Kybo would have won the 1970 Champion Hurdle had he not come down in the closing stages. Meanwhile, on the flat, Kerman's best horse was Angazi, a stayer who provided him with a triumph at Royal Ascot in 1961.

Racing aside, Kerman's commercial interests included ownership of the London restaurants Scott's and Sheeky's, as well as property and greyhound stadiums. He was also responsible, through his introduction to the yearling sales at Deauville and to the Espans trainer Walter Nightingall, for starting the highly successful Turf career of Louis Freedman, subsequently the owner of the col Reference Point, whose victories included, in 1987, the Derby, King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes and St Leger. Kerman married Blanche in 1943, but she predeceased him. He is survived by two sons.

PERSONAL COLUMN

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE, FOR SALE, FLATSHARE, ANNOUNCEMENTS, COURT & SOCIAL, DOMESTIC & DIRECTORY, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, FLATSHARE, CKETS FOR SALE

MOTOR ACCIDENTS. CORONER AND THIRD-PARTY RISKS. ON THIS DAY August 13, 1925. A child of four had been knocked down and killed by a taxi which was not insured against accidents. The coroner had some very pointed things to say but it was several years before third-party insurance became compulsory.



NEWS

Universities fear clearing boycott

University admissions officers and head teachers fear that many students will shun next week's clearing process after the A-level results, which fills one in six higher education places.

Jobless fall cheers Government

The Government, besieged by criticism of its handling of the economy, pounced gratefully yesterday on news of a fall in unemployment to its lowest level for 18 years.

Food warning error

Warnings about genetically modified food issued to the public by a scientist earlier this week were improper and misleading, a top British nutrition laboratory has admitted.

Driver killed sister

Frances Beech, 33, a drink-driver who killed her sister in a car crash after driving the wrong way down a dual carriageway, was jailed for 18 months and banned for seven years.

Presidential thrills

To take his mind off things, and with almost nobody to talk to as troubles crowd in and his holiday is delayed, President Clinton has been escaping into thriller novels.

Global warming row

American scientists claim to have resolved one of the biggest puzzles over global warming, but satellite scientists dispute their colleagues' results and say the atmosphere really is cooling.

Spoilt for choice

White paint is wrong for homes designed for Chinese people, but green is good for Muslims. Houses built for Bangladeshi people should include a balcony or verandah.

War of the crosses

Poland's war of the crosses on the fringes of the Auschwitz death camp has taken on such a bitter tone that all outsiders are regarded as a menace, as part of a global conspiracy.

Pornography plea

Hard pornography must be legalised to halt Britain's flourishing black market in obscene videos, James Fernan, the chief film censor, said.

Taleban threat

Taleban troops have moved to within five miles of Afghanistan's border with the Central Asian states, prompting an appeal by Tajikistan for help.

Mother knows best

A grammar school teacher who robbed off-licences armed with an air pistol was jailed for four years after his mother took him to the police to confess.

Rocket explodes

A US Air Force rocket carrying an unmanned secret spy satellite exploded in a spectacular fireball 42 seconds after lift-off from Cape Canaveral in Florida.

Fashion house pays

A fashion house that designed clothes for Diana, Princess of Wales, has agreed to pay a van driver after racial discrimination allegations.

Iran 'bomb link'

A suspected Iranian government connection to the bombs that exploded near the American embassies in East Africa is being investigated.

Lottery cash for Scottish films

More than 13,000 cans of film, many of them filled with unique historic images of Scotland's cultural and social history over the past 100 years, are to be preserved and catalogued thanks to a grant of £377,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.



The Central Band of the Russian Navy plays in Inverkeithing, Fife, yesterday to honour Admiral Samuel Greig, who was born in the town and whose work during the second half of the 18th century helped to shape the modern Russian Navy.

BUSINESS

Pay: Fears are growing in the boardroom that the Government will crack down on directors' pay after an attack by the Chief Secretary to the Treasury on utility directors' pay.

SPORTS

Rugby union: The possibility of a British League beginning at the start of the coming season appeared to be increasing after developments yesterday.

ARTS

Bodice-ripping year: New films this week include Firelight, the tale of a French governess chosen by the master of a Victorian country house to bear his heir, and Ewe's Bayou, a family chronicle of black America.

TECHNOLOGY

Dry dock: Bill Frost visits a £330-a-night hospital where stars such as Caroline Aherne and Eric Clapton have come to terms with their addictions.

Oil deal: Wall Street's big banks will collect the lion's share of about £60 million in fees and expenses from the takeover of Amoco by British Petroleum.

Football: Aston Villa revealed that they had rejected an offer of £10 million from Manchester United for Dwight Yorke, appearing to bring to an end the protracted transfer saga.

A star is sought: A new record label, Vox Humana, is searching for Britain's answer to Celine Dion - a big voice with worldwide appeal.

Victorian Internet: In the 19th century the telegraph was considered as exciting a revolutionary device as the Internet.

Golf: Lee Westwood has his best chance of winning a major championship when the US PGA Championship begins at the Sahalee Country Club in Seattle.

Cricket: Jonty Rhodes steered the South Africans away from a second defeat at Headingley with an innings of 90 in their match against a Counties Select XI.

Chimes reborn: Orson Welles's Shakespeare fantasy, Chimes at Midnight, has been reborn on the Chichester stage with Simon Callaghan playing Falstaff.

Great Russian: Peter the Great mucked in with dockers building warships at Deptford, but was as brutal as Stalin.

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 29.4 points to close at 5462.2. Sterling's trade-weighted index fell from 104.4 to 103.8 after a fall from \$1.6325 to \$1.6294 and from DM2.9076 to DM2.8914.



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

ARTS Embrace, the coming men of British pop, kiss and make up with Oasis and Verve.

MEDIA Ed Needham, editor of hit magazine FHM, explains why the boys like his toy.

Doctor's orders: Dr Thomas Stutzford reports on foot fungi from dirty swimming pools, heatstroke, ear infections, travel sickness and female hygiene.

Bargains of the week: Stay in a medieval barn in Cornwall, go camping in Iceland or put on your blue suede shoes for Elvis Week in Memphis, Tennessee.

Terrorism is a global enterprise in which the criminals enjoy the advantage. They pick the time, the place, the means and the message. Our best defence is unflinching condemnation of the thugs, a firm resolve not to be intimidated and redoubled efforts to see that they face justice.

Police leadership and efficiency: Lord Wakeham on Princes and the press; Libby Purves's article on Princes' freedom.

Preview: There's wedding bells in Hello Girls (BBC); and Medicine Women (BBC) follows a doctor who treats children with dyspraxia. Review: Joe Joseph examines some less controversial aims of genetic engineering.

Sense on censorship

Given the growing availability of pornographic material by mail order and through the Internet, it must be better to attempt to police this market in a more sophisticated way rather than taking refuge in old rules.

Hostile takeover

No sooner had Peter Mandelson departed on holiday this week than John Prescott was waving a pass key over his red box. Only waving it, of course; far be it from Mr Prescott, as his office quickly emphasised, actually to pick the lock.

Ideal homes

Design regulations accommodating the needs of ethnic minorities run the risk of a rigidity which crushes the variety of British culture.

TIM HAMES

John Prescott is now seen by most as a principled and endearingly honest kind of fellow: a sort of cross between Les Dawson and Norman Tebbit.

PETER ACKROYD

It is my earnest belief that the nature and inheritance of the British Library may run the risk of being destroyed by one misguided decision.

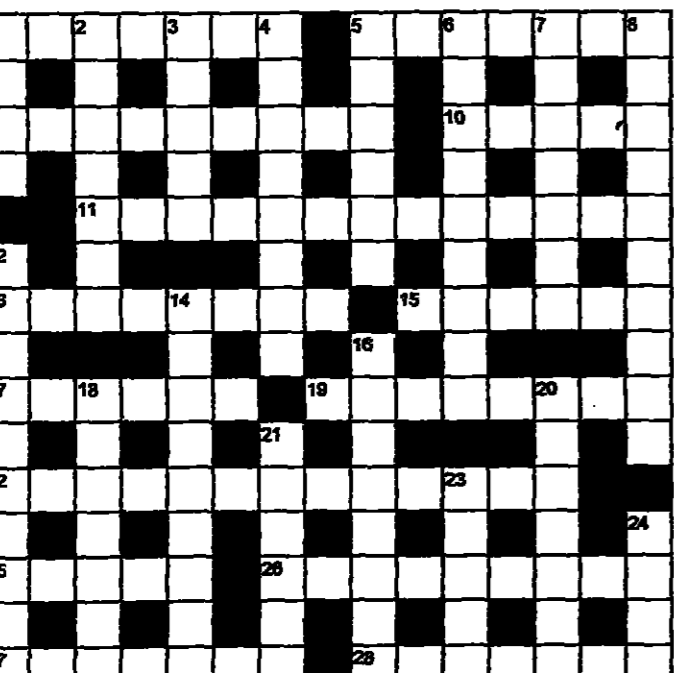
OERWENT MAY

The new danger comes from genetically modified farm crops, and what they might do to the insects and weed seeds that so many birds, like yellow-hammers, depend on for food.

Ralph Ricketta, novelist; Henri Ziegler, French aircraft pioneer; John Alcockhead, horse-racing executive.

Police leadership and efficiency: Lord Wakeham on Princes and the press; Libby Purves's article on Princes' freedom.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,869



- ACROSS
1 Though sometimes rough, one's always precious (7).
5 A happy occasion we had, with sound of bells? (7).
9 To be, he composed, venerable to the end (9).
10 Person fully prepared to swallow mollusc (5).
11 Love-poetry by partners - with it, I have become very easily affected (13).
13 Like an eternity ring? (8).
15 Name of wife embraced by gleeful spouse, originally? (6).
17 Creature noted for eagerness to live, say (6).
19 Summit almost reached by support column's section (8).
22 Translation of Parisian landmark to this heavenly place (7,6).
25 Honest chap, fellow with class (5).
26 State nominates constituents for resettlement (9).
27 Bright lights and temptations ensnaring a paragon of virtue (7).
28 Violently criticise part of play intolerantly (3,4).
DOWN
1 Furniture put up on time - that's outstanding (4).
2 Dreadful or excellent? (7).
3 Arduous task moving old pigment (5).
4 Planning to make classical number in slightly changed design (8).
5 A new addition in part of house that's in decline (6).
6 Pursue girl to give flower (3,6).
7 Understand brief report on Matilda's wickedness (7).
8 Outdoor furniture Great Danes destroyed (6,4).
12 Enough drink to make acrobatic almost blotto (10).
14 Engraver passes printing fluid with hesitation (3,6).
16 Monarch left holding nothing of particular territory (8).
18 Nevertheless (as used around US city street) (7).
20 Get this instrument in key as quickly (7).
21 Bad feeling in a game with our side (6).
23 Cautious, in general, going over tracks (5).
24 A young couple originally married in distant county (4).

Latest Road and Weather conditions
UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910
UK Road - All regions 0336 401 410
Roads 123 0336 401 746
M25 and Link Roads 0336 401 747
National Motorways 0336 401 748
Continental Europe 0336 401 822
Channel crossings 0336 401 823
Homing to Helix 0336 407 505
A Gannex Airport

Table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions. Includes cities like Aberdeen, London, and Manchester.

HIGHEST & LOWEST
Yesterday's highest day temp. London, Kent, 26C (79F); lowest day temp. Far Isle, Shetland, 12C (54F); highest rainfall. South Isle, Orkney, 1.0mm; highest sunshine. Clifton, Essex, 13 1/2 hr.

General: northern England and North Wales will have rain in places. South Wales and the rest of England will be dry with sunny spells. Heavy rain in western Scotland will ease but it will remain overcast and foggy with drizzle. In eastern Scotland skies will brighten in the late afternoon as the rain clears. Rain in Northern Ireland will ease to a little drizzle in places.
London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England: sunny spells. Light W to NW wind. Max 23C (73F).
E & W Midlands, E England: sunny spells but increasing cloud. Light to moderate W wind. Max 22C (72F).
Channel Isles: mostly sunny. Light NW wind. Max 22C (72F).
SW England, S Wales: sunny spells but increasing cloud. Light, mainly W wind. Max 21C (70F).
N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, NE England, Central N England: early sunshine fading, then drizzle in places, mainly on coasts and hills. Light to moderate W to SW wind. Max 20C (68F).

Table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions. Includes cities like London, Manchester, and Birmingham.

Table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions. Includes cities like London, Manchester, and Birmingham.

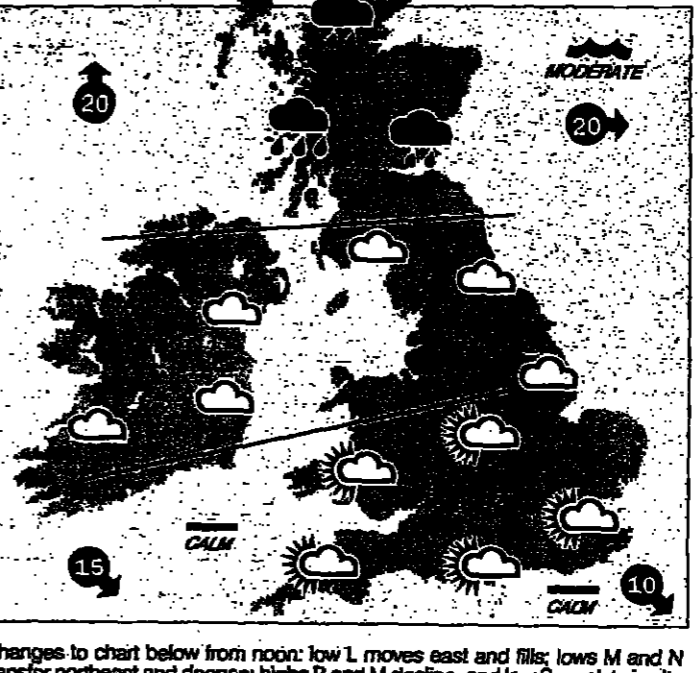


Table with columns for location, temperature, and weather conditions. Includes cities like London, Manchester, and Birmingham.

Stock market
Directors in
weathering
backlash on
directors'
pay levels



# THE TIMES

# 2

INSIDE SECTION  
**2**  
TODAY



**BUSINESS**  
Graham Searjeant  
on the battle  
of BA's slots  
PAGE 27



**ARTS**  
Sophie Morceau:  
upstairs, downstairs  
in her new film  
PAGES 31-33



**BOOKS**  
Basquiat:  
graffiti artist  
to the great  
PAGES 34-35

**TELEVISION  
AND  
RADIO  
PAGES  
42, 43**

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

THURSDAY AUGUST 13 1998

## Stock market buoyed by inflation report

By JANET BUSH  
ECONOMICS EDITOR

STERLING fell, gilt yields fell to record lows and the stock market rallied as the City reacted to the Bank of England's latest inflation report as evidence that interest rates have now peaked.

The Bank acknowledged that an economic slowdown is now evidently underway and that this would weaken inflationary pressure. But it noted that inflation has remained above the Government's 2.5 per cent target and that it may be difficult to avoid a temporary rise in inflation over the next year before it falls back to target. It said that

the interest rate response would depend on how far and for how long inflation is expected to remain above target.

Despite the Bank's refusal to rule out a further interest rate rise, the City generally interpreted the tone of the Bank's analysis as more dovish and adjusted their positions in the market accordingly.

The pound's effective index against a basket of currencies ended the day at 103.8, compared with 104.4 on Tuesday. Sterling lost about 1 1/2 pence against the mark to close at DM2.8914.

On the Government bond market, gilt yields hit record lows on the assumption that base rates will go no further. The yield

on the ten-year benchmark bond, which stood at about 7.4 per cent when the Government came to power last May, yesterday hit 5.5 per cent — its lowest since the mid-1960s.

The stock market rallied modestly, pushing the FTSE 100 index 29.4 points higher to end at 5,462.2.

The City was particularly cheered by news that average earnings growth has eased back, falling to 5.0 per cent in May from April's 5.4 per cent. Mervyn King, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England, said that, although there were distinct oddities in the figures, they were a step in the right direction and that the Monetary Policy Committee undoubtedly welcomes them. The

Bank clearly remains concerned about tightening in the labour market against the background of further falls in unemployment in the latest figures published yesterday. On earnings, it does not feel comfortable with annual growth above 4.5 per cent and it is clearly banking on a rise in unemployment to dampen down wage pressures.

Economists at ABN AMRO said: "Until there is clear evidence that the labour market has begun to 'loosen', a tightening bias to the MPC's rate policy will remain, a slowing economy and the ongoing pain of manufacturers notwithstanding."

The Bank of England has become more pessimistic on economic growth since its

May Inflation Report and is now emphasizing some of the risks to growth from the economic crisis in Asia and from declines in markets around the world. However, Mr King puts the chance of a recession at only one in eight. It expects the economy to continue slowing until early next year but then predicts that output will begin to rise, partly helped by a pick-up in public spending.

Mr King dismissed fears that extra public spending will add to inflation. He said the impact on prices would be marginal and the Chancellor's plans would ensure that fiscal policy was on a stable and sustainable path.

Commentary, page 25

### BUSINESS TODAY

| STOCK MARKET  |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| FTSE 100      | 5462.2 (+29.4)    |
| Nikkei        | 15378.97 (-28.02) |
| Dow Jones     | 8551.16 (+88.21)  |
| S&P Composite | 1083.41 (+14.43)  |

| GILT YIELD |      |
|------------|------|
| 3-mth      | 5.5% |
| 6-mth      | 5.5% |
| 12-mth     | 5.5% |
| 2-yr       | 5.5% |
| 5-yr       | 5.5% |
| 10-yr      | 5.5% |
| 30-yr      | 5.5% |

| LONDON MONEY    |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 3-mth interbank | 7 1/2%          |
| Life long bill  | 7 1/2%          |
| Future (Sep)    | 110.56 (110.46) |

| STERLING |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| New York | 1.6290* (1.6322) |
| London   | 1.6303 (1.6330)  |
| DM       | 2.8915 (2.9088)  |
| FF       | 8.4823 (8.7512)  |
| SF       | 2.4157 (2.4300)  |
| Yen      | 237.88 (240.27)  |
| £ Index  | 103.8 (104.4)    |

| DOLLAR  |                  |
|---------|------------------|
| London  | 1.7748* (1.7815) |
| FF      | 5.8480* (5.9735) |
| SF      | 1.4835* (1.4913) |
| Yen     | 146.03 (147.27)  |
| £ Index | 114.5 (115.0)    |

| NORTH SEA OIL      |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Brent 15-day (Oct) | \$12.05 (\$11.90) |

| LONDON CLOSE |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| London close | \$284.55 (\$284.95) |

### Jobs lost in wine merger

The merger of Victoria Wine and Threshers will result in some 300 stores being closed within three years, costing 1,000 jobs. Closure of one of the head offices will bring further job cuts. The new company will be the country's second-largest drinks seller. Page 25

Shares in Airtours rose 8 1/2p to 396p after it announced booking levels up 16 per cent on last year. Airtours plans to cut capacity to "maximise profitability". Page 28

## Byers in scathing attack on directors' pay levels

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FEARS are growing in business that the Government could mount a crackdown on boardroom pay after yesterday's attack by Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, on utility directors' pay. The move could come swiftly in legislation on company law planned for 2000.

Mr Byers' onslaught on utility pay comes after similar criticism by Gordon Brown and heightens expectation that the Treasury is pushing for tight guidelines on all directors' pay in the government review of company law. Utility pay will be dealt with by forthcoming legislation on utility regulation that was initiated by the Department of Trade and Industry. But the increasingly vocal attacks on pay by the Treasury are being seen as a precursor to a wider move.

Ruth Lea, head of policy at the Institute of Directors, said: "There are concerns that the Government could go further than the utilities. They would do so at their peril. This is big business they are talking about interfering in."

The Treasury is concerned that spiralling directors' pay will trigger inflation. The Government will also want to be seen to stamp on boardroom excesses as it tries to encourage restraint on general pay. Mr Byers said: "Pay responsi-

bility must be shown from the boardroom down. People must recognise that today's excessive pay increases could be tomorrow's interest rate rise or mortgage increase."

His comments came in the wake of Treasury analysis of a survey of directors' pay by the magazine *Utility Week* that showed that utility executives' pay had climbed 18 per cent last year with some chief executives enjoying a 40 per cent jump in remuneration.

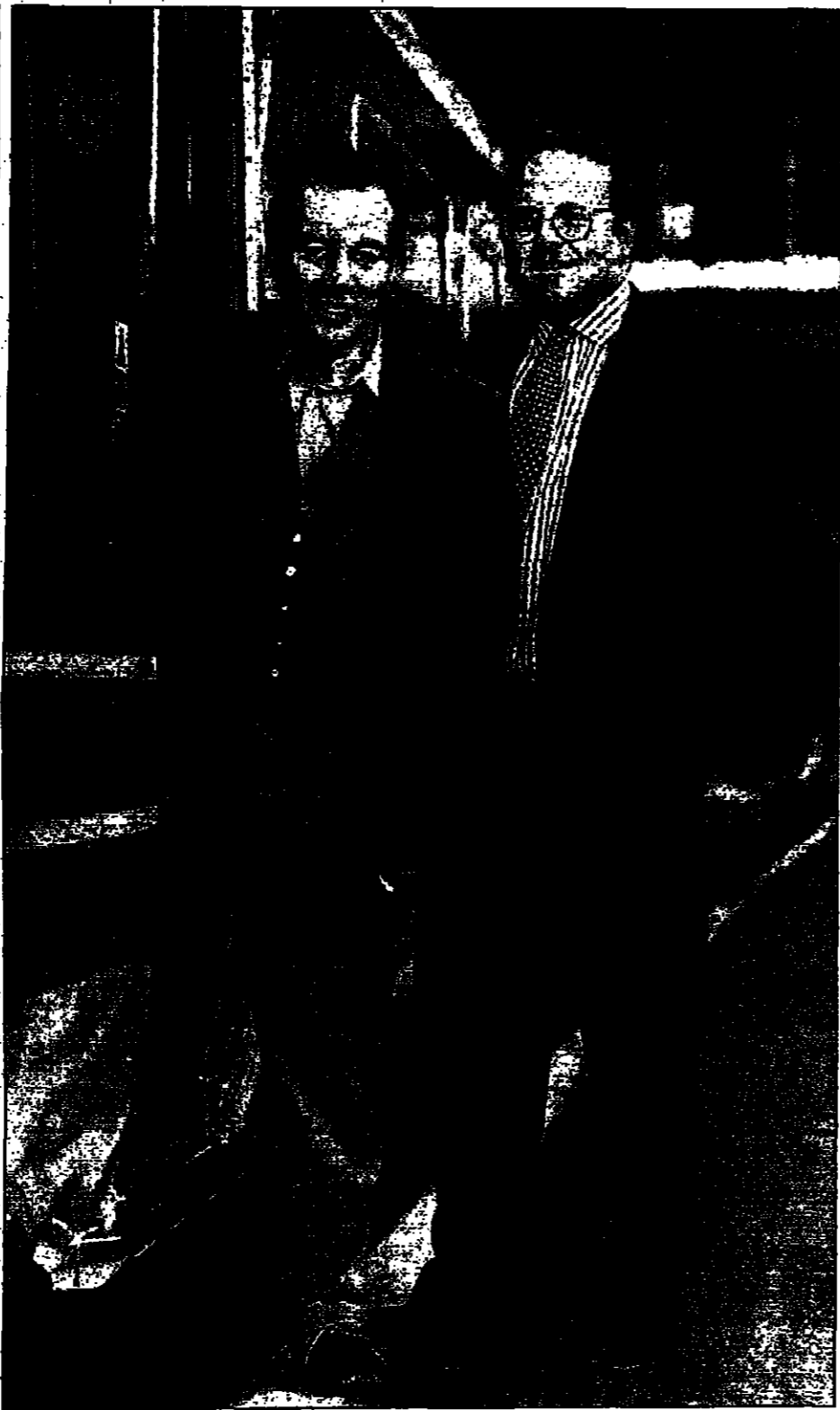
The TUC said yesterday it wanted a full extension of the planned legislation to tie utility directors' pay to performance standards. The threat of laws to make boardroom pay more accountable was laid out last month when the Government published its response to consultations on the Utility Regulation Green Paper.

The TUC wants workers to be guaranteed a place on remuneration committees. It is also lobbying the Government to force businesses to publish the reasoning behind decisions on executive pay along with information about how the pay at the top relates to that at the bottom. It wants companies to be compelled to set out ratios of the highest paid to the lowest and to show how the overall pay bill is distributed. John Monks, General Secretary, described the remuneration committees that set directors' pay as "the last real closed shop".

Arguments from the TUC to the Government are being backed by the Low Pay Unit, which is demanding more accountability over pay. The IoD and the Confederation of British Industry want companies to be free to set the pay of their executives. Utility companies could be forced to put their remuneration packages to a shareholder vote at annual meetings.

The Government's review of company law began last year. It plans to have legislation in place by 2000.

Commentary, page 25  
Boardroom excess, page 27



Service failures: Brian Souter, left, and Stagecoach finance director Keith Cochrane

## Anger over punctuality bonus to FirstGroup

By FRASER NELSON

NORTH Western Trains, the FirstGroup subsidiary being threatened with legal action for running an "atrocious" service in Manchester, has been awarded a £355,000 government bonus for its punctuality.

In one of the most bizarre financial awards since privatisation began, John O'Brien, the franchising director, has authorised the bonus even though cancellations on FirstGroup's Manchester line have almost trebled. The news emerged three

days after Chris Mulligan, director-general of Manchester Passenger Transport Authority, travelled to London to ask Mr O'Brien to use whatever powers he has to force FirstGroup to improve the rapidly deteriorating service.

The payment also angered the RMT Trade Union. It said: "We are astounded. Manchester PTE has resorted to the riot act to FirstGroup, but still they are picking up bonuses."

Opraf, the rail franchising office, said it paid the bonus — on top of a £160 million annual subsidy — because North Western Trains has met "com-

plexed" benchmarks linked to the British Rail days.

Stagecoach, chaired by Brian Souter, suffered the most from Opraf's incentive system — and was charged £817,000 for failures on its South West Trains franchise. But its London commuter service, which runs from Waterloo station, was not included in the top ten punctuality offenders.

Opraf today discloses the punctuality data from April to June. The Go-Ahead Group, which runs the London to Oxford line, was fined £625,000 by Mr O'Brien's office for punctuality deficiencies.

## Laura Ashley chief leaves within a year

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LAURA ASHLEY, the troubled clothing retailer, is parting company with its second chief executive in a year.

David Hoare, who was brought in to drag the company back from the brink, is leaving after only nine months in the job. He will be replaced tomorrow by a manager from the Malaysian group that bailed out Laura Ashley earlier this year.

Richard Pennycook, the finance director, who joined only in March, is also to leave. John Thornton, Laura Ashley's chairman, will stay, but the board will nonetheless be dominated by executives from Malaysian United Industries (MUI), the conglomerate that in April paid £4.7 million for its 40 per cent stake.

Mr Hoare stands to receive about £200,000 compensation, while Mr Pennycook is likely to collect £40,000. Laura Ashley plans to cut 20 per cent of its head office staff, at a total cost of £2.5 million in redundancy payments. The sum will be taken as a provision in its first-half results. It said savings should be about £3 million a year.

Mr Hoare, a management

consultant who took over from Ann Iversen, the controversial American chief executive, when she was ousted last year, will be replaced by his deputy, Victoria Egan, who used to head a retailing company within MUI. She joined in May.

Mr Hoare's departure follows that of Sir Bernard Ashley, a joint founder and former chairman, who resigned from the board in June. Nicholas Ashley, Sir Bernard's son, remains a non-executive. Dino Adriano, chief executive of J Sainsbury and a non-executive at Laura Ashley, has also recently resigned.

Stephen Cox, the group director of legal and commercial services, said that Mr Hoare had "joined on the basis that he would stabilise the company, and that has been done". The company said that current trading had been stable and in line with internal expectations. Sales are believed to be well down, although the amount of trading at a discount is also believed to be lower. That should set it in line for a full-year loss of £17 million, before the exceptional costs.

Commentary, page 25

## Dein's pay soars at Arsenal

By JASON NISSE

DAVID DEIN, deputy chairman of Arsenal football club, was paid £525,000 by the Premiership and FA Cup winners last year, a rise of 288 per cent.

On top of this remuneration Mr Dein sold 1,419 shares, realising an estimated £2.26 million at yesterday's price of £2,300 per Oxford traded share.

His remuneration makes him the best paid director in British football and with the share sale he received more than the team's best paid player, Dennis Bergkamp, who is said to earn £2 million a year. Success showed through in Arsenal's accounts, with turnover up nearly 50 per cent at £40.4 million in the year to May 31. This turned a pre-tax loss of £1.6 million in 1996-97 into a profit of £5.93 million.

However, success brought soaring pay, with the wage bill rising from £15.3 million to £21.9 million. Arsenal yesterday declined to confirm the highest paid director was Mr Dein but said pay increases were approved by the board.

## Wall Street banks to reap oil merger bonanza

By CARL MORTISHED  
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EDITOR

WALL STREET'S big banks will collect the lion's share of about \$100 million (£61.4 million) in fees and expenses from the takeover of Amoco by British Petroleum.

JP Morgan and Morgan Stanley will share the advisers' fees, acting for BP and Amoco respectively. The rest of the bill will be shared by four teams of lawyers and an array of accountants.

The level of bid fees is large but still might disappoint City corporate financiers who may

have hoped that BP Amoco heralded a new bid fee bonanza. According to *Acquisitions Monthly*, bid fees normally average between 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent of the value of the target. For BP, the total bill represents just 0.2 per cent of the \$44 billion offer for Amoco. However, bidders in transactions of this scale are normally able to insist that the fee be decoupled from the size of the target company.

The investment bank fees will be partly conditional on success, with Morgan Stanley's linked to the level of premium achieved over the stock price. However, BP is believed to have insisted on

a cap on fees paid to JP Morgan. A team of just four bankers worked on the deal at JP Morgan; BP is believed to have done much of the work in-house to reduce expenses and avoid leaks.

The level of secrecy has astounded the City. The British oil company attributes the lack of whispering to a decision not to inform stockbrokers or public relations consultants. "We didn't tell brokers or PR agencies," said one insider.

But at least one sleuth from a wire service is believed to have got it almost right. On Monday, he called BP and asked whether the company was going to announce a bid for Amoco that

afternoon at 3pm. The BP spokesman replied, truthfully: "No." The bid was announced the next day.

□ Fear of job losses is gripping America's Mid West after the BP Amoco announcement. The governor of Ohio and the mayor of Cleveland yesterday promised incentives to BP in an attempt to prevent a relocation to Chicago, Amoco's headquarters. The merger will lead to 6,000 job losses, mainly in the US. Job losses are expected at Amoco but two thirds of the 2,000 staff at BP's Cleveland headquarters are to be laid off and the balance transferred to Chicago.

**YOUR PENSION: IN YOUR OWN TIME, IN YOUR OWN WAY.**

A Merchant Investors pension is an easy, convenient and flexible pension. The charges are low. You can vary your contributions without charge. Pay no commission when you buy direct. No sales person will bother you.

**Merchant Investors Assurance**  
Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and part of Alliance — one of the world's largest insurers.

Mail this coupon to: Merchant Investors Assurance Company Limited, Freeport BS 6015, Bristol BS1 4LZ.  
Tel: 0117 336111 / 336115 / 336116 (please check as appropriate)

INITIALS: \_\_\_\_\_ SURNAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
POSTCODE: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you EMPLOYED or SELF EMPLOYED? (If self-employed, see you in your company's pension office.)  
YES or NO (please check) \_\_\_\_\_

CALL NOW ON 0800 374857 FOR A BROCHURE

TT12/98

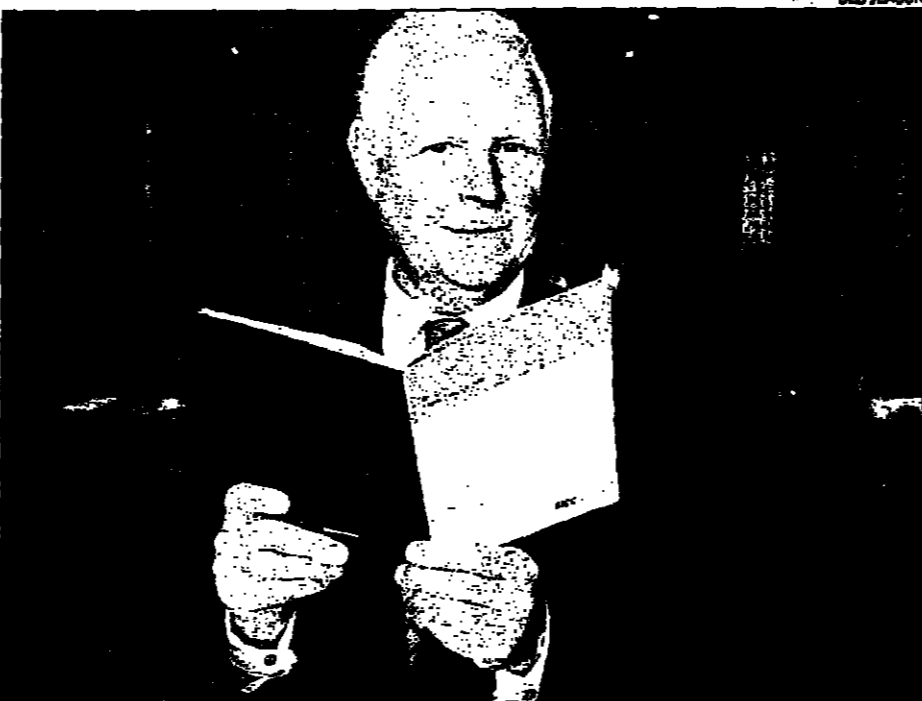


Bill Gates 'must give open court testimony'

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK
BILL GATES has lost his personal privacy as well as a legal argument in the run-up to the biggest anti-trust battle of the decade.
The world's richest man was scheduled to give secret pre-trial evidence yesterday but his testimony was delayed after a ruling that the Microsoft chairman must answer questions about anti-competitive behaviour in open court.
Mr Gates pulled out of the interview because he feared Microsoft's trade secrets would be revealed. A judge had taken the unusual step of making public Mr Gates' deposition, a pre-trial testimony.
The deposition was scheduled to take place at a secret location in Seattle, where Microsoft is based. The trial will begin next month.
Media organisations had forced the judge to throw open the deposition, citing an anti-trust law from the Rockefeller era. Judge Jackson said to media lawyers: "I don't think there's any question under the statute that you have the right to do what you want to do but I hope you realise what effect you are having on these proceedings."
Legal experts said the battle over Mr Gates' testimony could delay the start of the trial. This would suit Microsoft, which had tried to shift the court date to next year. The company is appealing against the ruling, calling it "messy". Mr Gates' lawyers are negotiating with the Justice Department about keeping secret documents out of the deposition.
In the last two weeks, Mr Gates has sold \$350 million (£215 million) of Microsoft shares, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission. Bundles totalling 3.5 million shares, or 1.5 per cent of Microsoft equity, were placed on the market at about \$100 each.

BICC to trim optical fibres in soft market

By ADAM JONES
BICC, which is shedding 2,000 jobs in its energy cable business, is having to streamline its optical fibre operation because prices have fallen further than expected.
Alan Jones, chief executive, said the market for optical fibres, used in telecommunications, is growing more slowly in Europe than predicted.
He said BICC is looking mainly at tightening the processes involved in manufacturing the fibre rather than shedding staff.
However, he admitted there may be a small number of job cuts at the main European optical fibre plant in Deeside, near Liverpool, which employs about 400-500 people.
Cuts in the energy cables business, which has been plagued by oversupply, are largely complete. By the end of the year, the number of employees at the energy cables arm will have fallen by 2,000, a drop of 30 per cent.
BICC had expected the Office of Fair Trading to clear a complex asset swap with Delta, which was the centrepiece of this restructuring, more quickly than it did. As a result, BICC incurred extra costs of "a couple of million pounds or so", said Mr Jones.
"Nevertheless, continuing difficult conditions in the cables markets, the benefits of rationalisation in the Europe-



Falling prices are forcing Alan Jones, chief executive of BICC, to streamline production

an energy cable market are now gathering momentum and will become increasingly evident in the results in 1999."
BICC said there are continuing improvements at Balfour Beatty, the construction arm, where first-half profits almost doubled to £30 million. Viscount Weir, chairman, said: "The momentum of profit growth is being maintained."
Balfour Beatty recently won a £100 million contract to renew track and signalling on the approaches to Euston station, London. The work is the first part of the modernisation of the West Coast Main Line to Scotland.
Overall profits before tax in the first half of 1998 were £35 million after an £11 million restructuring charge on the sale

of Australian businesses. The profits were down from £55 million in the same period last year. Group turnover fell from £2.06 billion to £1.91 billion.
Earnings per share before exceptional items rose from 4.5p to 4.7p. The interim dividend has been held at 4p, payable on January 4, 1999.

Tempus, page 26

British Land takes stake in Selfridges

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM
BID speculation surrounded Selfridges yesterday after British Land disclosed it had bought a 3.15 per cent stake in the department store group.
British Land, which is led by John Ritblat, is believed to have built up the stake in two chunks in the past week. John Weston-Smith, finance director, said: "We looked at it because of the property asset and the share price."
Until the shares rose yesterday, Selfridges was worth less on the stock market than the £325 million value of its Oxford Street site.
Mr Weston-Smith would not comment on whether British Land might become involved in a bid for Selfridges, but said it saw great potential for the site. "It has a wonderful pinch, one of the best there is."
Shares of Selfridges started trading at 26p last month when it was demerged from the Sears group, but fell to a low of 20p. The news of British Land's purchase pushed the shares up 17p to 22½p.
"it's possible that Ritblat is trying to negotiate himself into some sort of development role. The hotel lease runs out in 2001 and it needs redeveloping," one City analyst said yesterday. The Selfridge Hotel, which is behind the store, is leased by Thistle Hotels.

Commentary, page 25

Beecham man to replace Chilver

HUGH COLLUM, the long-serving chief financial officer of SmithKline Beecham, is to replace Lord Chilver as chairman of Chiroscience, the drug development company whose first important product is to be sold by Zeneca, the rival British pharmaceuticals group. Chiroscience's long-lasting local anaesthetic was licensed to Zeneca in a deal that Panmure Gordon estimates could be worth £250 million to the smaller company. The drug is currently being reviewed by industry regulators.
Mr Collum, 57, joined Beecham as finance director in 1987, having previously been finance director of Cadbury Schweppes. SmithKline Beecham executives are expected to retire at 60. His other directorships include M&G Group, the investment manager, and Safeway. Bob Jackson, Chiroscience's UK research and development director, has taken on the additional responsibility for the group's R&D in Seattle, taking over from David Galas. Dr Galas, former president of Darwin Molecular, the Seattle company that Chiroscience acquired two years ago, is planning to return to academia, though he will continue to act as an adviser.

Telemetrix warning

TELEMETRIX, the troubled electronic components company, gave warning that the crisis in Asia could affect its semiconductor sales. The company, which two months ago found a buyer for its stake in loss-making GTI Corporation, reported profits of £3.3 million (£2.3 million) for Tetex and Trend, its UK subsidiaries. Overall, the group reported losses for the six months to June 27 of £10.8 million compared with a pre-tax profit of £2.6 million the previous year. Loss per share was 8.4p compared with earnings of 2.1p. There is no dividend.

Seagram income rises

SEAGRAM, the drinks and entertainment group, increased net income from \$148 million (£88 million) to \$324 million in the fourth quarter and from \$502 million to \$946 million in the year to June 30. For the year, earnings per share rose from \$1.36 to \$2.70. Edgar Bronfman Jr, Seagram's president and chief executive officer, said: "Universal has made steady progress since Seagram acquired it three years ago and its 19 per cent gain in the quarter and 24 per cent gain for the full year were exceptional."

Siemens sales drive

SIEMENS has launched a glossy brochure and video pack advertising the sale of its North Tyneside microchip plant in a bid to save 1,100 jobs. Last month Siemens announced plans to close the plant only a year after it was opened. The German company has teamed up with the Government to produce a marketing pack, which will be sent to 500 potential buyers around the world. Analysts say the £500 million price tag reportedly set by Siemens will put off prospective bidders. Prices in the semiconductor market have fallen dramatically.

Mayflower gets hostile

MAYFLOWER, the car bodies group, tried to pressure Dennis, the bus and fire truck maker, into recommending its hostile bid for the company yesterday. Mayflower said that a rival merger proposal from Henlys would not get a cash boost from Volvo, the Swedish carmaker that is taking a stake of up to 10 per cent in Henlys. In its current form, the all-share Henlys offer is worth about 36p per Dennis share, compared with the 45p that Mayflower is offering in cash and alternatives.

Morning Star embraces share culture

By RAYMOND SNOODY MEDIA EDITOR
THE MORNING STAR, the last communist daily in the English-speaking world, is reaching for the share mechanism with renewed vigour to pay off its debt and fund expansion. Supporters are being offered

the chance to invest up to £20,000 at £1 a share in the venture that is just starting to recover from a bout of factional in-fighting and a five-week strike earlier in the summer. The People's Press Printing Society, the co-operative which owns the Morning Star, is not, however, about to try to float on the Stock Exchange.
Richard Maybin, the newspaper's business manager, said that not only would no dividends be paid, but each shareholder, however many shares are held, would still only get one vote.
The hope is to use the share option scheme to raise the £20,000 needed to pay off debts and to go ahead with a

plan to ensure that the paper can come out with 12 pages every day from September. At the moment the Morning Star has 12 pages on three days a week and eight pages on the other days.
So far about £40,000 has been raised through donations that are non-returnable and share options that can at least be sold on in future. At the moment, The Morning Star, under John Haylett, its reinstated editor — his original sacking prompted the acrimonious strike — is selling about 7,000 copies a day.
"But it's an influential readership — trade unions, Government and companies," insisted Mr Maybin.

Tempus, page 26

Shire rescue plan helps shares recovery

By PAUL DURMAN
SHIRE Pharmaceuticals believes that it may have found a solution to production problems after an explosion at the New Jersey factory that supplies the active ingredient for its biggest selling product.
Shire's shares, which fell after the explosion last week, recovered 39.5p to 362.5p yesterday on news of the plan. Rolf Stabel, chief executive, hopes to transfer its supplier's permits and contracts to another manufacturer. Shire is in talks with three potential partners, but still needs to win the approval of the US Food and Drug Administration.
The company had warned that production of Adderall and DextroStat, its treatments for hyperactivity in children, could be disrupted for up to a year. This prompted analysts to cut profit forecasts.
With the go-ahead from the US regulators, "we could be up and running without any disruption to the supply line", Mr Stabel said.

Shire reported first-half profits of £5.4 million, a big improvement on last year's £41,000 loss, reflecting the US acquisition of the Richwood marketing operation a year ago. Strong growth in Adderall's sales led a 146 per cent jump in Shire Richwood's revenues to \$43.7 million (£26.9 million). UK sales of calcium supplements and other products grew by 26 per cent to £5.5 million. The group's total sales trebled to £40.1 million.
Shire has just launched Carbatrol, an epilepsy treatment it said has been well received. It reported encouraging phase III trial results for galantamine, a treatment for Alzheimer's disease.
Until last week, the potential of galantamine and other drugs made Shire, Britain's fourth largest pharmaceuticals company by market capitalisation, were valued at about £500 million.

Tempus, page 26

BT to pay \$1bn for stake in Concert

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR
BT is to pay MCI the US telecommunications group, \$1 billion (about £614 million) for its 24.9 per cent stake in Concert Communications.
The purchase will go ahead immediately after the MCI-WorldCom merger is completed and was agreed under the terms of the joint venture agreement between BT and MCI when Concert was first established in 1993.
The \$1 billion purchase will mean that BT has taken 100 per cent ownership of Concert,

which supplies international telecommunications services for the corporate sector.
As part of last month's global venture with AT&T, the US telephone company will be appointed as a non-exclusive distributor of Concert services in the US. These will be sold as AT&T Concert Services but there are no plans for AT&T to take a stake in Concert itself.
After completion of the MCI-WorldCom merger MCI will continue to distribute Concert services in the US.

FINANCE & LEASING ASSOCIATION

Advertisement for the Finance & Leasing Association (FLA) diploma examinations. It lists prize winners for the 1998 examinations across various subjects like Financial Appraisal, General Principles of Law, and Business Finance & Leasing. The winners include names like Anthony Smith, Lombard North Central PLC, and others.

CGU

Merger integration gathering pace

- Annualised future cost savings estimated to increase to £270m from £225m
Severe weather claims, £129m higher than 1997, competition and a number of large claims in general insurance reduced the operating profit before taxation to £280m
Strong progress in life and savings business with new sales up 28% and life profits 19% higher at constant exchange rates
Interim dividend increased by 8%

Table showing CGU results for six months 1998. It compares 6 months 1998 (Unaudited) and 6 months 1997 (Restated). Key figures include Life premium income (£3,434m vs £2,952m), General premium income (£4,636m vs £4,615m), Operating profit before taxation (£280m vs £503m), and Interim dividend per ordinary share (13.25p vs 11.27p).

Notes: (i) 1997 results restated at average exchange rates (ii) Includes realised investment gains, merger expenses and equalisation provisions

CGU plc

A world-class insurer created through the merger of Commercial Union and General Accident

St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London, EC3P 3DQ Internet: http://www.cguplc.com

The CGU 1998 interim report will be circulated to shareholders on 4 September 1998 and copies can be requested from the Shareholder Relations Team at the address above or by telephoning 0171 662 8866.

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies as of 12.00 on 13/08/98. Currencies listed include Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, S. Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, USA, and UK.



# Hands off private sector pay

Ministers are beginning to sound increasingly irritated by their impotence in relation to directors' pay. While top salaries seem to be enjoying the Viagra effect, Government exhortations that companies should practise self-restraint drop limply into the fast-filling archive of used sound-bites.

Pre-election promises prevent a move from pleas to penalties via the introduction of a higher rate of income tax which would, at least, allow the exchequer to take its cut of the corporate generosity before offending executives demanded even higher rises to compensate for their increased tax bill. But Chancellor Gordon Brown has stung out over-paid executives as public enemies and Stephen Byers has clearly been recruited to the cause. Byers' rabble-rousing comments yesterday added to the exhortations the threat of action. The regulators of the utilities are being effectively told to issue instructions to remuneration committees. If, as now seems likely, the Government intends to interfere with top wages in unregulated industry, it is heading into dangerous territory.

Does the administration that has given us a minimum wage now intend to prescribe a maximum? If so, it should think again. In the enterprise culture that Messrs Blair and Brown are so keen to encourage, earning potential can hardly be capped. The

message that "it could be you" is surely as relevant to encouraging the workers to aim high as it is to persuading punters to buy lottery tickets.

Yet there is a growing fear that the Treasury is seeking a mechanism whereby it can stop its wishes for executive pay restraint being flouted. The popular technique of naming and shaming has been suggested by the Chancellor but the evidence is that a little bad publicity is generally seen to be a small price to pay for an (in)decent pay rise. Money may not buy you everything but it does provide the wherewithal to be insulted in comfort.

Naming and shaming only worked so effectively for Helen Liddell, in her former guise as a Treasury Minister, because the pensions mis-sellers she was vilifying understood the veiled threat that they would not be allowed to partake in the business bonanza expected to be generated by the promised reform of pensions. If the Government were to refuse to do business with companies whose pay policies it did not like, it would risk doing less than the best by the taxpayer.

Legislative changes that would require shareholders to approve

every director's pay package annually would be unwieldy and, largely, ineffective. Shareholders should not run companies; that task they entrust to their board. If they feel that the board is not behaving as they would like, they already have the opportunity to vote against it.

The evidence so far is that top salary packages concern the Chancellor more than the people who are paying them.

**Bank not yet a dove**

British exporters dream at night of a fall in sterling. The Bank of England's Mervyn King clearly has nightmares about the same.

He has candidly admitted that the Bank has no idea why sterling has appreciated 25 per cent and that, until there is a rational explanation, officials are obsessed with the idea that the

## COMMENTARY by our City Editor

pound could suddenly descend into a rapid and inflationary decline. This, and a quite proper reluctance to nail its colours to a very sticky mast, must be why the Bank yesterday stopped short of calling a peak in interest rates despite the obvious and now acknowledged extent of the economic slowdown. Leaving the possibility of another rate rise dangling in front of the markets is a useful way to limit the extent of any decline in the pound as the economy slows further.

The Bank's determination to dress itself in hawk's feathers is not just a market tactic. It seems determined to go on emphasizing the upside risks to inflation rather than the downside risks to growth. Mr King is one of the less jargon-bound central bankers, but even he indulged in some spectacular central banker gobbledegook yesterday when talking about recession, a sign, any psychologist will tell you, of discomfort. "There is a non-negligible but still relatively modest risk of negative growth," he said.

Mr King welcomed yesterday's easing in average earnings growth but said that there were some distinct oddities in the figures. In any case, he came up with a new worry — the minimum wage — just as average earnings as a whole seem to be coming right. Setting the impact of the minimum wage on one side of the inflation balance sheet against the glowering potential of disinflation from the Asian crisis and a sharp correction in world stock markets on the other does seem disproportionate.

Of course, Mr King is right to point out that the markets are still far higher than they were when Alan Greenspan warned investors of irrational exuberance and one would not expect the Bank to pre-empt something as unpredictable as a stock market through monetary policy.

Nevertheless, the betting has to be on the emerging and much

more serious second-round effects from Asia providing a compelling argument against tighter money in the months ahead. But the threat of a fall in sterling may provide just as stubborn a barrier to a rate cut. The hawks are hovering, they have not yet been transformed into doves.

### What's in store for Selfridges?

John Ritblat had no need of this column to wake him to the bargain on sale at Selfridges. When we pointed out that shares in the newly floated company had slumped below the value of the property assets, the shrewd Ritblat was already on his way to amassing a sizeable stake in the business.

He may only be taking a punt on someone else coming in to takeover the company but Ritblat has the imagination and the expertise to do the deal himself. He will certainly have noted the potential to develop the Selfridge Hotel into a top notch establishment and is already undertaking a redevelopment of the Great Eastern Hotel in the City, in partnership with Patriot Hotels of the

US and Sir Terence Conran. Together, they could work wonders on the Selfridge when the lease falls in a couple of years.

But what about the store. Might the ubiquitous Sir Terence be tempted into taking over the Selfridges food hall? The store could accommodate a massive Conran Shop and the guru of good taste could also advise on what other retailers might be allowed to enter the expensively revamped emporium. Ritblat's other business, the Conrad Ritblat property agency, knows all about letting retail property.

It is a more exciting prospect than the rumour of another store taking over. Debenhams is doing a great job in its market niche, but it would be a shame if Terry Green was wooed into too grandiose expansion plans.

### Revolving doors

BEGONE dull cares. The revolving management door at Laura Ashley has now claimed chief executive David Hoare, following a "successful Phase 1 stabilisation programme" and finance director Richard Pennycook, who has been "decentralised". The trouble is that the doors conveying customers into the shops have not been revolving fast enough. One can only hope that new boss Victoria Egan, formerly of the Shangri-La Plaza, is really the person to break the unwanted peace of the shop assistants.

# Merged drinks chains set for store closures

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

THE merger of Victoria Wine and Threshers will result in 300 stores being closed in the next three years with the loss of 1,000 jobs. Further job losses will occur when one of the head offices closes.

The new company, which has yet to be named, will be the country's second-largest drinks seller, behind Tesco and ahead of J Sainsbury.

It will be 50-50 owned by Whitbread, owner of Thresher, and Allied Domecq, owner of Victoria Wine. Although the new company will not be the largest drinks retailer, the Office of Fair Trading is expected to give the merger, which should be effective from the end of this month, close scrutiny.

The two chains currently have about 1,500 outlets

apiece. Each company has been closing about 100 branches a year for the past two years, and that rate is set to continue.

A spokeswoman for Whitbread said that alternative employment within either group would be offered to as many staff as possible whose jobs disappear.

The new company will have annual sales of more than £1.3 billion and net assets of about £260 million. Analysts estimated that the cost savings would be around £15 million a year. There will also be substantial one-off restructuring costs in the first year.

Stephen Alexander, chief executive of Allied Domecq Retailing, will be chairman of the new company. Jerry

Walton, currently managing director of Thresher, will be managing director of the business. Bob Warne, from Victoria Wine, will be the finance director.

A spokesman for Allied Domecq said that the company would have market share of between 12.5 per cent and 13 per cent, compared with Tesco's 14 per cent. J Sainsbury has about 12 per cent of the drinks market.

However, the new company's share of the specialist off-licence market — excluding supermarkets — will be more than 40 per cent.

The point of the merger, both of the companies said, is to build up market share rather than to cut costs.

Mr Alexander said: "With its position in the market

place and its ability to achieve economies of scale, the company will be well equipped to deliver enhanced shareholder value for both Allied and Whitbread."

Mr Walton said: "The take-home drinks market is attractive but has been led by the supermarkets, who have used their scale to achieve efficiencies and thereby grow their market share. To compete effectively, a similar scale is essential."

The Victoria Wine business trades under the names Victoria Wine, Victoria Wine Cellars, Haddows, Martha's Vineyard and The Firkin.

The Thresher business, meanwhile, trades as Wine Rack, Bottom's Up, Thresher Wine Shop, Drinks Cabin and Huttons.

# Northern 'safe' with CalEnergy

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

CALENERGY, the American parent company of Northern Electricity, yesterday vowed to hold on to the Tyneside utility despite the \$4 billion (£245 billion) acquisition of MidAmerican Energy (Oliver August writes).

A CalEnergy spokesman said: "Northern remains an integral part of our group and provides an important platform for future growth."

CalEnergy is paying a 36 per cent premium for Mid-American shares and will assume \$1.4 billion in debt.

David Sokol, CalEnergy executive chairman, said the acquisition of Northern in 1997 acted as a Trojan horse to gain expertise in transmission and customer service before tackling the US market. Financing for the acquisition was in place and Northern's position was safe.

# CGU expects to shed 1,000 more jobs

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

CGU, the composite insurer formed from the link-up of Commercial Union and General Accident, said yesterday an extra 1,000 jobs would be lost on top of the 5,000 forecast at the time of the merger.

The insurer, which was reporting for the first time as a merged company, unveiled a 44 per cent drop in pre-tax operating profit from £503 million to £280 million for the six months to the end of June due to severe weather claims, which were £129 million higher than in 1997.

Life and savings business was up 28 per cent and life profits were 19 per cent higher at constant exchange rates. The UK life business will launch a single marketing group on October 1. Shares slipped 15p to £10.30, having



Scott: looked at operations fallen as far as £10.19 during the day. Bob Scott, chief executive, said when the merger was announced the company predicted 5,000 job losses, 3,000 of which would go in the UK. Since then, he has looked at operations in the US and the rest of the world and believes an extra 1,000 can be lost there.

CGU lifted its dividend to 13.25p from 11.3p but operating earnings per share fell to 13.3p from 27.2p. Earnings in France were boosted by acquisitions, and life profits there increased by 54 per cent.

CGU said a review had identified potential pre-tax cost savings of £270 million a year within the next two years, up from the original estimate of £225 million. The estimated cost of achieving these savings by June 2001 is £20 million more than first calculated, at £320 million, the bulk of which will be incurred in the second half of the year.

CGU said costs arising from the euro were £10 million. Peter Foster, group finance director, said continental operations had been little affected by the merger and CGU was on the lookout for acquisitions to boost the life businesses there.

Tempus, page 26



# Digital costs trim BSkyB

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting is facing reduced or flat pre-tax profits for the next two years because of the high cost of investing in its new digital satellite service.

The likely effect of the venture on earnings emerged as the group unveiled a 14 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £270.9 million for the year to June 30. The fall, on turnover up 15 per cent to £1.43 billion, was caused by increased programme costs and the capital costs of digital, which have already reached £150 million.

The pressure on profits will

come from aggressive pricing of the digital service that will launch with 110 television channels and 50 audio channels on October 1 and free digital installation at £90 a time.

BSkyB will also be paying more tax because it has used up most of its tax credits. BSkyB is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times.

Mark Booth, chief executive, revealed that the entire digital package, apart from pay-per-view movies, would be available for £29.99, the price of the much smaller analogue pack-

age of channels. And in a move aimed at digital terrestrial rivals OnDigital, Mr Booth said there would be a basic tier package of "at least six channels" costing £6.99 a month. A family package of 40 channels would cost £11.99 and there would be four specialised packages at £8.99.

OnDigital, which is planning to launch at least 15 channels in November, has said its basic package will cost less than £10 a month.

Despite the reduced profit BSkyB is holding its dividend at 6p for the year.

# Games Workshop aims to be big player

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

GAMES WORKSHOP, the toy model and science-fiction game specialists, said that last year's profits warning and share price fall would not slow a rate of expansion which could see it with up to 1,000 shops in a few years' time.

The company turned in pre-tax profits for the year to May 31 of £11.5 million, up 3.5 per cent, on turnover of £64.8 million, up 11 per cent. Earnings per share rose 6.6 per cent to 24.1p.

It warned earlier this year that profits would be hit by the rise of sterling, and said yesterday that if exchange rates had remained at last year's levels, profits and sales would have been up 23 per cent and 18.2 per cent respectively.

The company now has 186 stores worldwide, most of them in the UK. Chris Prentice, chief executive, said he was particularly excited by the prospects for growth in the US, where much of its sales are through third-party retailers, and in Germany, where it currently has eight stores. He said he sees the scope for at least 150 stores in Germany and up to 1,000 worldwide.

Games Workshop makes games as well as the plastic and tin models of science-fiction characters which feature in the games. Its typical customers are teenage boys.

# Who is really in control of your finances?

- (a) The Wizard of Oz
- (b) Mystic Meg
- (c) Your bank manager
- (d) You

To be in control of your finances you have to know exactly where you stand. The Virgin One account puts everything from your mortgage to your current account in one place so that you can always see precisely what you owe and precisely what you own. You have the flexibility to pay in or take out money whenever it suits you, and with all borrowings charged at the same competitive mortgage rate of interest you don't need to waste time shopping around for the best deal.

If you have, or are about to buy, a home with a mortgage of at least £50,000, then give us a call on 08456 00 00 01 to find out if we're right for you. The Virgin One account. It's no small change.

The Virgin One account is a secured personal bank account with The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

PEPS

one account

pensions

life & health

**one account**

08456 00 00 01

personal financial service

Open 7 Days a week, 24 Hours a day

Representative only of Virgin Direct Personal Finance Service Ltd, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority for life insurance, pensions and unit trust business and represents only the Virgin Direct Marketing Group. YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. You can phone for further information or a written quotation at any time. You must be aged 18 or over. Life insurance is required. For your security all calls are recorded and randomly monitored. The Virgin One account is not currently available in Northern Ireland. Virgin Direct Personal Finance Ltd, Discovery House, Whitling Rd, Norwich, NR4 6EL.

# Bravo for Flextech as profits soar

By RAYMOND SNOODY, MEDIA EDITOR

FLEXTECH, the cable and satellite channel company, famous in the past for its continuing losses, is expected to announce today that all its main channels are now in profit. The first move into profit for the media company came out of an oil services group, came last year when Flextech made a pre-tax profit of £1.7 million for the full year.

Now it is believed that the company has made a pre-tax profit of around £2.5 million for the first six months of this year.

with significant contributions coming from channels such as Living, Bravo and Trouble. Flextech's main strategy has been to assemble a broad range of channels, which form an essential part of the basic tier for both cable and satellite operators. The company's earnings have started to increase in line with the growth in the cable and satellite market.

Yesterday, BSkyB, in which News International, owner of The Times, holds a 40 per cent stake, said that in the year to June its total number of subscribers through satellite and cable connections had increased to 6.9 million. Almost all of those

subscribers would be watching at least some Flextech channels.

Uncertainty has, however, been created for Flextech by the "unbinding" policies of the Independent Television Commission which will allow viewers to opt for smaller packages.

This week, Flextech announced it was seeking permission to take the ITC to judicial review on the grounds the Commission was interfering unlawfully with existing legal contracts. The Flextech case will be vigorously opposed by the ITC.

Yesterday, shares in Flextech closed at 474p.



STOCK MARKET

FRASER NELSON



Investors stay wary as FTSE nudges forward

THEY think it's all over. A day after one of the most damaging trading sessions London has seen this year, shares pulled off a cautious recovery yesterday — although the big institutional spenders remain unconvinced.

Dealers arrived into work to find that Wall Street had recovered a full 100 points from its overnight dive, the Nikkei 225 losing only 25 points and the Hang Seng up 79.5 points.

Orders placed from private investors were quickly executed — and the FTSE 100 rebounded immediately, climbing 61 points in the first six minutes of trading.

But this failed to be backed up by any substantial support and the index soon tumbled back. It finished 29.4 points up at 5,462.2.

Then came the earnings data, which greatly assured equity strategists. One said: "At the moment, earnings figures are the single most important piece of economic data to us. It's the first piece of good economic news we've had for months."

As Wall Street opened straight into positive territory, institutional investors lent some of their cash to a recovery and, by the end of play, a modest but respectable 833 million shares changed hands. One fund manager said: "When you see this kind of volatility, it is best to wait until the dust settles," said one strategist.

Most of the best performers were automatic rebounds from Tuesday's downfall. Nycomed Amersham became the highest-climbing blue chip, adding 19p to 41 1/2p. MFI Furniture was on the rebound with an uncharacteristic 6.5 per cent rise, to 49 1/2p.

Given that the market had settled, there was hope that BP may finally be rewarded for its £67 billion merger with Amoco. Not a bit of it. After a day of sharp fluctuations, it closed a penny cheaper at 79 1/2p — although 73 million shares changed hands.

The takeover speculation which yesterday descended on other oil stocks evaporated — leaving fears about declining international oil prices. Lasso became the worst blue chip casualty, off 15 1/2p to 200 1/2p. Ranger Oil shed 12 1/2p to 40p and Tullow Oil eased 2 1/2p to 131 1/2p.

Still, the improved share performances tempted back



Chris Haskins saw Northern Foods hold its price despite market-makers complaining about a dearth of shares

the takeover bid rumours amongst the second-line stocks.

The most conspicuous rise was that of Vaux, the brewing and hotels group which this column has been following very carefully over the past few days.

The shares gained 21p to an all-time high of 399 1/2p on further speculation of a tentative approach from Whitbread, which was steady at 83 1/2p. However, analysts remain unconvinced. Other market sources were talking up the prospect of a bid for

Albright & Wilson, up 3p to 136p on volume of 1.6 million shares. Word is that it has been in talks for three weeks now, and is almost ready to agree terms.

There were also some curious trades in Northern Foods, chaired by Chris Haskins.

Trade in bundles of 1,000 shares was punctuated by four heavy bundles of more than 250,000 shares — taking overall volume to 1.48 million. By the end of trade, some market-makers were complaining that they could not

get hold of any shares — leading to an after-hours rumour that someone is building up a stake. The shares held at 163 1/2p.

British Land emerged as a stakeholder in newly demerged Selfridges and lifted shares in the department store 8.3 per cent to 221 1/2p.

The company is now capitalised at £338 million, against the £325 million valuation attached to the Oxford Street site occupier.

BOC Group, criticised for its decision to shed 500 UK jobs, has at last found its reward in the City. Merrill Lynch is understood to have upgraded its recommendation on the back of its restructuring plans and the shares added 31p to 767p.

Antonov, a £70 million gearbox manufacturer, has suddenly become the darling of the Alternative Investment Market. Credit Lyonnais Laing has agreed to become its house broker and has set a 300p price target on its shares.

AIM dealers say that Laing would not take on a minnow lightly. Antonov makes advanced gearbox for small cars, and sells them for £400 apiece — against the market rate of £1,000.

Laing intends a full market listing for Antonov and will introduce the company to its list of fund managers abroad as soon as possible.

A profits warnings from Datronex, a computer components distributor, sent its shares plummeting 23p to 60p as it confirmed the resignation of Gerry Connolly as finance director.

HCAS, a property consultancy, made its debut on the Alternative Investment Market yesterday after reverting into General Industries. The shares, which had been suspended at 36p, added 3 1/2p to 39 1/2p.

GIIT-EDGED: Bonds held on to the gains they picked up during the equity turmoil — helped by the benign economic data. Treasury 13 per cent 2000 added one notch to £111 1/2, and Treasury 9 per cent 2012 added £1 to £132 1/2.

NEW YORK: Shares were higher in morning trade as buying won back some of the losses of the past two sessions, inspired by a firmer yen and stable overseas markets. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 88.31 points at 8,551.16.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Dow Jones 8551.16 (+88.31) S&P Composite 1083.41 (+14.43)

Tokyo: Nikkei Average 15378.97 (-28.02)

Hong Kong: Hang Seng 6898.48 (+79.53)

Amsterdam: AEX Index 1149.30 (+34.33)

Sydney: All Ordinaries 2851.0 (-10.1)

Frankfurt: DAX 5402.37 (+133.97)

Singapore: Straits 998.77 (+12.16)

Brussels: BEL20 3409.74 (+34.52)

Paris: CAC40 3945.70 (+99.72)

Zurich: SMI 1537.50 (+43.49)

London: FTSE 100 5462.2 (+29.4) FTSE 250 5213.7 (+11.4) FTSE 350 2629.0 (+12.2) FTSE Europe 100 2073.7 (+37.7) FTSE All-Share 2599.15 (+1.09) FTSE Non Financials 2036.56 (+7.63) FTSE Financials 1452.60 (+0.08) FTSE 100 S&P 104.56 (+0.18) Barclays 601.99 SRAQ Volume 633.5M SRAQ Index 1.0294 (+0.0031) German Mark 2.9914 (-0.0162) Exchange Index 103.8 (-0.6) Bank of England official rate (4pm) 5.25% LSEOR 1.2335 RPI 163.4 Jun (2.7%) Jan 1997-100 161.1 Jun (2.8%) Jan 1987-100

Chaucer A Wts 12% Coca-Cola (160) 171% + 2% Downcast 26% Hidden Hearing Ind 144% MEPC Non Cum FTB 95 + 1 Martin Cur High Inc 102% Premier Direct Grp 182% Selfridges (233) 221% + 17 Soda Petroleum 50 - 2 Springbrd Vent Mng 147% SupaRule 99% Syntex Cp Wts 98/02 23% Talisman House 5% Talisman Hse Wts 252% + 14 Toronto 252% + 14 Williams Group 2%

Pressie n/p (180) 30 + 1 Torotrak n/p (200) 5 + 1 Wellington n/p (210) 25 + 1

RISE: Satchwell 221 1/2 (+17p) Dialog 1890 (+14p) Vaux Cp 359 1/2 (+21p) Sainsbury 2290 (+10p) BOC 7670 (+31p) Pison 6300 (+25p) Cable Wireless 7470 (+27p) Compass Group 7040 (+24p) Compag Corp 5870 (+18p) Reuters 5950 (+16p) Galahad 3750 (+10p) Stair Chart 6070 (+14p) Sainsbury J 5050 (+11p)

FALLS: Xenova 70p (-17p) Soosy Hwls 480p (-57p) Oxford Miclar 125p (-11p) Dogfish Pack 213p (-10p) Andrew Sykes 187p (-10p) Brit Alcotrol 223p (-13p) Helphire Cp 382p (-20p) Carlton Comm 485p (-29p) Air London 300p (-15p) Air Aerospace 450p (-50p) Ramco 580p (-50p)

Closing Prices Page 30

CGU's cold front spreads

TIMES are tough for insurers and there is no sign that things are getting any easier. Weather losses gave CGU's first results as a merged entity a decidedly disappointing air, and the company acknowledges that only the life insurance and pensions side is likely to show any significant growth in the short-term. And although life and savings new business rose by 28 per cent in the six months to 30 June, more than half of CGU's business still comes from non-life operations.

CGU has a broad geographical spread of business in non-life, but low premiums and fierce competition in general insurance are not confined to the UK. CGU is increasing motor insurance premium rates, but it is far from certain that a price-hike strategy will leave the company better off. Overcapacity in the sector has become endemic after the

influx of direct writers in recent years. So far, general insurers have failed to make large rate increases stick because when premiums rise, motorists switch their business to the direct insurers who are prepared to write business at very low margin in order to increase critical mass. CGU is also going for increases of 10 per cent, twice the target that Royal & Sun Alliance, CGU's fellow composite insurer, has in mind.

Analysts downgraded their profit forecasts for the full year yesterday. BT Alex Brown, the broker, lopped £5 million off its pre-tax estimate and now expects CGU to make full year profits of £780 million.

Yet even after recent share price falls which were compounded yesterday as the stock lost another 15p to close at £10.30, CGU still looks fully valued.

Shire

THE run of success at Shire Pharmaceuticals came to a spectacular end last week with an explosion at the New Jersey factory of a key supplier. The threat to supplies of Adderall and DextroStat, Shire's drugs designed to help hyperactive children, prompted its shares to crash as low as 252 1/2p. They had touched 540 1/2p.

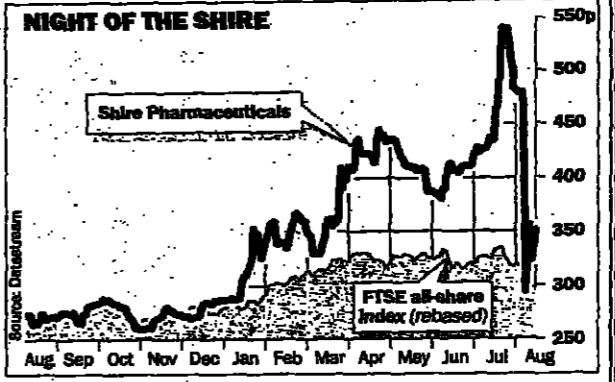
Here are clear lessons of the dangers in chasing highly regarded growth stocks, but some of Shire's initial gloom is already lifting. It hopes US regulators will allow it to transfer production from Arenol in New Jersey to another manufacturer, possibly avoiding any interruption to supplies of Adderall and DextroStat. Shire's renewed optimism suggests its plans are enjoying some encouragement

from the US Food and Drug Administration. That is good news for the 150,000 children taking the drugs, and for Shire's profits this year.

Adderall is providing the bulk of those profits at the moment but much of Shire's £500 million market valuation still rests on the potential of galantamine for Alzheimer's disease. Shire

has also just launched Carbatrol, a promising epilepsy treatment, and is still making good progress with calcium supplements and other low-profile products.

The company continues to give the impression of being well-managed. The shares have recovered to 362 1/2p, up another 12 per cent yesterday, and represent fair value.



Airtours

THE trick for Airtours, and all tour operators, is to get forecasts about future demand for holidays right. Economic slowdown will affect Airtours and its cohort but bigger pain comes if the supply of holidays fixed up now is mismatched with demand that materialises anything up to a year or more hence.

With an under-estimate, tour operators will not make money where they could have done. Over-capacity, however, means discounting, and while that is excellent news for holiday makers it is dire for shareholders.

In deciding to shrink holiday capacity by five per cent for 1999, after two years growing, Airtours is probably moving in the right direction. But even appreciating the value of the 35 years of industry experience that comes with David Crossland, Airtours' chairman, it is hard to feel confident about the

estimate. As far as the current year is concerned flat third quarter results out yesterday show the credible scenario of World Cup stay-at-home-itis but a rush of business post France 98 means Airtours is on course to make £140 million this full year. That means the share trade on a multiple of 17 — not expensive, but neither is Airtours particularly cheap given the uncertainties.

There is no need to chase these shares.

BICC

BICC has been a company on the defensive for some time. On the bright side, Balfour Beatty, its construction arm, is making good progress. A 3 per cent operating margin may not seem like something to shout about but it does represent real progress. Balfour Beatty's railways expertise should ensure that it gets a good chunk of future infrastructure improvement work too. But it has been mired in

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

DEAD CAT BOUNCES

Table with columns: Name of company, Price at 29.7.98, % change by correction, % Rebound after 1997

THE PHRASE "dead cat bounce" then fill your boots accordingly. But the game only works if the factors that dragged the shares down in the first place are eliminated when market confidence returns. Our chart shows the worst casualties of this correction and how they fared over the 11 weeks it took the FTSE 100 to recover from its mini-crash in August last year.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity Name, Price, Change

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table with columns: Instrument, Price, Change

COMMODITIES

Table with columns: Commodity Name, Price, Change

MONEY RATES (%)

Table with columns: Rate Type, Rate, Change

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Table with columns: Country, Term, Rate, Change

LIFE OPTIONS

Table with columns: Option Name, Price, Change

GOLD/SILVER METALS (Pound & Co)

Table with columns: Metal Name, Price, Change

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Table with columns: Term, Rate, Change

BARCLAYS TREASURY LIQUID BANK

Table with columns: Instrument, Price, Change





# Prescott plays infernal slot machine

Aircraft landing slots are not stuff to stir the blood. Most of us are never likely to consider them, unless we wonder why the carrier we chose to take our family on holiday to the Mediterranean can only fly us from Dyce on Tuesday at 5am.

The nagging detail of how to allocate scarce airport space is, however, at the heart of a long battle over who should decide which airline will fly us where at what price: politicians or consumers. It has now become the unlikely focus for another silly-season battle of wits between our own Deputy Prime Minister and Peter Mandelson, the untested new Trade Secretary.

Four years ago it became clear that the expanding American airlines that had emerged from east-throat domestic competition, over there shared a grievance. They could not gain enough access to Heathrow which, for reasons that mystify many travellers, appears to be the world's favourite airport.

A trade crisis loomed, if only of the ersatz kind that US trade negotiators have hened in dealings

with Japan. Bilateral deals on who could fly where were shelved with much noisy shuffling of papers and scraping of chair legs.

A simple market mechanism, it soon emerged, could have resolved this spat: create an open market in slots for take-off and landing. Prosperous expanding airlines could buy their way in and ailing ones could balance their books by selling rights they cannot make pay.

Most slots at most airports are worthless. But at leading European cities, rights to land and take-off at the times people most want to travel on key routes are scarce. They are often held by semi-bankrupt national carriers. A market that allows them to raise cash, instead of blackmailing Brussels to agree illegal state subsidies, would be an advance.

Several airlines bought slots at Heathrow via unofficial deals

which suggest that they could be worth up to £2 million. But the European Commission stopped an open market developing. It would contravene Council Regulation 95/93. The Competition Commissioner also argues, with a straight face, that a slot market would make it harder to enter the airline market. There are other reasons.

John Prescott, who is also Britain's transport supremo, believes that slots belong "to the community". What can this mean? The European Community? Perhaps not.

If aircraft landing rights have been added up as part of the comprehensive audit of public assets, few have noticed. US airlines that bought them privately would be aghast at retrospective nationalisation. The Treasury would be grossly negligent for failing to squeeze a fortune from this goldmine.

When hundreds of thousands of



us bought shares in British Airways 11 years ago, no landing rights were valued in its balance sheet. But few would have invested if we had thought that all those fumbles would have nowhere to land if some future Transport Minister lost his luggage in Terminal 4 and felt vindictive. The question had not come up. It resurfaces now be-

cause of the alliance BA is trying to make with American Airlines, its most formidable transatlantic competitor. In a free market, a merger between the two would be unthinkable, since it would dominate routes from Heathrow to America. With brazen hypocrisy, however, America protects its huge airline industry as completely as possible.

Foreigners are barred from ownership or from competing in the world's biggest internal market. No non-US company can therefore build the global airline now considered to be the best model for future international competition.

The second-best option is to form a partnership with a US airline. As some Europeans discovered, this can be a disaster unless your partner is strong and reliable. Hence, BA finally opted for a safety first alliance with AA.

Consumer guardians were

bound to insist that the alliance's hold on transatlantic routes be curbed, to the extent that it was buttressed by key Heathrow landing slots. The deal is voluntary, so do not not waste sympathy on BA.

A year ago Robert Ayling, BA's frenetic chief executive, talked of scrapping the deal when the UK's Office of Fair Trading demanded that 168 slots a week be given up. Now he seems happy to cede 100 more, so long as he can sell them for a possible (and possibly wildly exaggerated) £500 million. Maybe Mr Prescott is just reacting emotionally. Like those who believe that piped water is a gift of nature.

In this individual case BA/AA does not need the cash incentive to sell offered by a free market in slots. They would be forced sellers. The crucial question is how the ceded slots would be allocated. This is the crucial divide between the mar-

ket and politicians. A free market would allocate them to airlines that could make the best use of them to serve consumers.

The alternative is the power of patronage. Mr Prescott the princeling, in his magnificent horseless carriage, distributes largesse through the window to deserving or importunate courtiers as he drives along a road cleared of ordinary people's cars so as to speed him on his way.

The reality may be more prosaic. Slots are chips for bargaining with Brussels or Washington. Gossip has it, for instance, that Brussels is giving BA a bad time because it buys Boeing rather than Airbus. That is probably nonsense. But the public can never be sure, because unaccountable power to distribute valuable rights is inherently corrupt.

Messrs Prescott and Mandelson must work out their playground spat. The rest of us should remember that "belonging to the community" sounds wholesome but is the key ingredient for a system that is utterly rotten.

# Government losing patience with the 'last closed shop'

# Utility fat cats play by the City's rules

**Christine Buckley** On the rising anger over boardroom pay excesses

Utility "fat cats" are likely to be put on a diet regulated by the Government as anger mounts over boardroom pay. Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, yesterday repeated warnings sounded by Gordon Brown that pay restraint had to be exercised by directors as well as staff lower down the ladder.

Mr Byers launched his attack after his officials had pored over a survey by the magazine *Utility Week* that showed directors' remuneration had climbed 18 per cent in large privatised utilities.

Some chief executives had seen their pay jump by more than 40 per cent. In all, the boardroom pay bill for the utilities last year was £46 million, which breaks down to a £2 charge on every household.

Mr Byers said the figures "give cause for concern", adding: "Where performance has not been outstanding, it should not be rewarded. The Government wants to see boardroom pay linked to achievement of rigorous, long-term performance."

The Department of Trade and Industry has already set out plans to try to curb directors' pay when it published its response to consultation on the *Utility Regulation Green Paper*, promising a law to force companies to link directors' pay with service standards.

It also set out measures to shame companies into making more moderate pay awards by calling for industry regulators to send open letters to the company remuneration committees. The letters would detail the companies' performance in meeting a variety of service standards. But Margaret Beckett, in her last move as President of the Board of Trade, em-



Ian McCartney, the Industry Minister, top, prepares to get tough with those dubbed "fat cats", such as Cedric Brown, left, Sir Desmond Picher, centre, and Keith Henry

phasised that it was not the role of the Government to set utility pay levels.

However, the increasing agitation of the Treasury could point to tougher action from the Chancellor. He has been critical of bonuses awarded to directors at Yorkshire Water, the company which has still to live down its disastrous performance during the 1995 drought. Kevin Bond, chief executive, recently received a £55,000 bonus on top of his £185,000 salary. He was

awarded further benefits in kind worth £55,000.

High boardroom pay is an embarrassment and a potential economic danger for the Government. It is embarrassing for bosses to be awarded themselves generous remuneration while the Government keeps a tight grip on public-sector pay and pleads with the private sector to follow suit. Generous boardroom pay is a threat to inflation if it filters down through the companies.

The difficulty is that unless

it resorts to highly interventionist measures the Government is powerless to prevent executive indulgence. Hence, some would say, the anger of the Chancellor, and the attempts to publicly humiliate the likes of Yorkshire and South West Water.

Pay is the preserve of the company remuneration committee, a band of non-executive directors which John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, has branded "the last closed shop". Yesterday he

said: "They scratch each other's backs and put up each other's pay. Company performance is not being reflected in these salaries. More employees should be given places on the pay-setting committees."

Remuneration committees set the level of awards without the package being subject to a vote either by the board or shareholders. They dictate benefits in kind and one-off payments such as the £120,000 relocation expenses given to Keith Henry, National Power's chief executive, to move to the adjoining county.

As non-executive directors, members of the remuneration committee can themselves be a part of the company for up to three years without scrutiny from shareholders. Only after that time are they required to be put up for re-election.

There is no statutory minimum for the number of directors in a remuneration committee, although the Greenbury report recommended no fewer than three. There is also no compulsion to publish the names of the members in annual reports. When members are put up for election and re-election at shareholder meetings, quite a number of companies do not highlight their membership but merely describe them as non-executives.

The charge that remuneration committees are often merely a selection of the directors' chums is hard to ignore. At the time of the scandal over plans by United Utilities for a complex and generous long-term incentive scheme the chairman of the remuneration committee was Frank Sanderson, a former long-time employee of North West Water — one half of the multi-utility. Along with the chairman of the audit committee, Mr Sanderson was one of several non-executives at United with strong links to North West Water or the northwest region.

Pensions Investment Research Consultants (PIRC) believes there is a cultural problem with remuneration committees — effectively an old-boy network of directors. Many non-execs are executive directors at other companies or are former directors. Many non-execs sit on the remuneration committees of several com-

panies. Last year PIRC established remuneration links between 46 companies.

Stuart Bell, research director at PIRC, said: "Remuneration committees are not solving the problem of high pay levels. There needs to be far more accountability. Remuneration packages should be put to a shareholders' vote and committee members should be subject to re-election every year."

This would require an overhaul of company law. It is possible the Chancellor may press for such a change as the utilities continue to stir up controversy over pay. He may have hoped to see the end of the days when Cedric Brown, the former chief executive of British Gas, and Sir Desmond Picher, former chairman of United Utilities, provoked public indignation over large pay hikes.

Tim Melville-Ross, the Director-General of the Institute of Directors, yesterday used an interesting tack to defend salaries in the privatised utilities. His argument was that fat cat pay at water, electricity, gas and phone groups was no worse than anywhere else in British industry — salaries were merely rising in line with other executives.

Indeed, research by Manifest, the corporate governance consultancy, suggests that the utilities are actually better than large sectors of British industry. Over the last five or six years, the focus of debate has been to ensure that there are the right checks and balances on directors' pay.

Three reports on corporate governance by committees led by first Sir Adrian Cadbury, then Sir Richard Greenbury and finally Sir Ronald Hampel brought together a code that is now enshrined in Stock Exchange listing rules. None of the utilities attacked by Stephen Byers, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, breaches

the Hampel code, but 19 of the FTSE 350 list of top companies directly breach the code in the make up of their remuneration committees and another 16 appear to breach it.

The Hampel report recommends that companies have a remuneration committee and 349 out of the 350 agree. William Morrison, the Yorkshire-based supermarket group does not. Ken Morrison, its chairman, is highly dismissive of the whole idea of new-fangled corporate governance interfering with the running of his company.

Thirteen companies have executive directors on their remuneration committee in defiance of Hampel. These include Airtrics, Associated British Foods, Perpetual (which as an institutional investor itself should know better), Hays, Hillsdown and Dixons, where a non-executive committee of two decide Sir Stanley Kalms's pay and Sir Stanley sits on the two committees that decide everyone else's pay.

Dixons is also culpable as one of the six companies (along with Mayflower, Ashstead, Jarvis, JJB and Caledonia Investments) that has less than three non-executives on the committee.

Manifest also points out that at 14 companies — including Shell, Lloyds TSB, Rentokil Initial and Bank of Scotland — the committees "recommend" rather than "determine" pay.

A pedantic point maybe. But the sort of thing that could form the focus of the next attack by Mr Byers.



Hampel: recommendations

JASON NISSÉ

# Date game

AFTER an extended (and not very discreet) courtship, I am happy to relate that Danielle, the computer dating agency, has finally accepted a £1.45 million offer from Columbus Group, the quoted publishing and mail order concern.

Columbus, whose deputy chairman is Nigel Wray, the property entrepreneur, believes it can revive the fortunes of a business which, at its peak in 1992, boasted some 30,000 "members" looking for their dream partners. These days it has just 11,000 on its books.

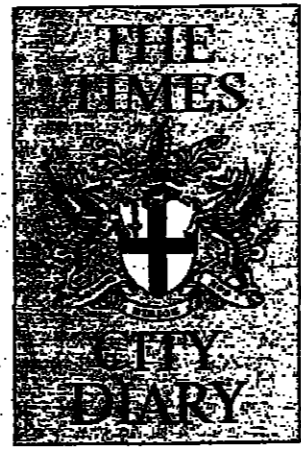
Nigel Barklem, the Columbus chairman, said the col-

lapse in business was largely down to the loss of leadership and commercial direction resulting from the long illness of John Patterson, who founded Datedate 30 years ago but died in January last year.

Perhaps Andrew Gilchrist, Columbus's finance director and the only board member who is unmarried, could boost numbers by availing himself of Datedate's services.

**WELCOME to the silly season.** A job ad crosses my desk from *Glendola Leisure*, which owns the UK rights to Rainforest Café, the US themed restaurant concept. Ahead of the opening of its £4 million Manchester outlet, the company is recruiting three animal care specialists to look after the restaurant's five parrots and its tropical fish. Don't hang about, though. The job of maintaining the talking tree and the life-sized elephants and gorillas has already gone.

**Drive error** THIS column's recent foray into jokes about management consultants having run its course, I offer a gem doing the rounds in the computer world.



Three Microsoft employees are touring the US by car. On a winding stretch of highway it bursts a tyre, leaves the road and ends up perched on a cliff-edge. The men escape unhurt and debate their next move.

The computer engineer says: "I think I can fix it." The systems analyst says: "No, I think we should try to get it into town and get a specialist to look at it." The computer programmer says: "OK, but first I think we should get back in and see if it does it again."

**In the bank** MARTIN Wales, who left Celltech to become a pharmaceutical analyst at Greig Middleton, is on gardening leave before teaming up with Martin Hall at HSBC Securities. He

fills one of the gaps left by the recent exit of Steve Cox and Steve McCarty to Rabobank, which has been liberally spraying money around to recruit analysts, further justifying its "Robabank" tag.

**Bug woe** A SURVEY by *Personnel Today* magazine has found that more than half of employers who expect to need staff to work during the Millennium celebrations have failed to arrange the necessary cover.

Staff at ScottishPower would be advised to get their holiday requests in early. Scott Wright, the group's employee relations manager, tells the magazine: "It is difficult to forecast what will happen because of the impact of the millennium bug. In a worst-case scenario we could have to call out thousands."

**Propped up** HYDER the Welsh utilities group, has solved the problem of what to do with Cardiff Arms Park stadium now that it has been reduced to 108,000 tonnes of rubble. It announced yesterday that it would be using the rubble as the foundation for its £180 million waste water treatment works being built in nearby Tremorfa.

By a happy coincidence, Gareth Edwards, the Welsh rug-

by legend, is a director of Harrier, the Hyder subsidiary that runs its fisheries and visitor centres. Edwards says: "The real memorial for this great stadium will be the clean waters around our shores." (NB: any crass jokes about rubble and the state of Welsh rugby are strictly forbidden.)

**WELCOME to the silly season (2).** News from Japan that Sony, the electronics giant, has halted shipments of some video cameras after a magazine article proved that their infra-red technology, designed for use at night, can be used to see through clothing. A spokesman said "We feel an unbearable regret over such a use."

**DOMINIC WALSH**

**EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES**

## Save £5 on guide to the House of Commons

Readers can buy *The Times Guide to the House of Commons, May 1997*, for just £30, a saving of £5 on the normal selling price of £35.

The guide is edited by *Times* journalist Tim Austin and features contributions by Simon Jenkins, Matthew Parris and Anthony Howard.

One year on from Labour's historic May 1997 landslide victory, a fully revised and updated edition of the definitive, bestselling guide is a must for every bookshelf.

**THE BOOK CONTAINS:**

- a biography and photograph of every MP
- detailed constituency-by-constituency breakdown of results
- authoritative analysis and comment
- the Cabinet and Shadow Cabinet in full
- details of by-elections since May 1997
- Fold-out colour map

**The Times Guide to the House of Commons**

My Name/Title/Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Or debit my MasterCard/Visa card no. \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of *The Times Guide to the House of Commons* at £30 per copy, (£35 incl. p&p)

I enclose a cheque/PO made payable to: **The Times FTTS**

Value: \_\_\_\_\_ Card No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please write name and address on back of all cheques

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send coupon and remittance for *The Times Guide to the House of Commons* FTTS, PO Box 345, Falmouth TR11 1PX

Allow 28 days for delivery from receipt of order. No claims for loss in transit can be made after 60 days. If classified, please return the book's title cover page for a full refund. The offer is subject to availability.

Please tick box if you do not wish to receive further details from *The Times* or companies approved by us.

**CREDIT CARD ORDERS ON 0990 134 459**

CHANGING TIMES



### Nursing homes group improves

BY PAUL DURMAN

WESTMINSTER Health Care, the nursing homes group, said it has made substantial progress in overcoming the problems that prompted its profit warning in May.

The company is seeking to reduce its reliance on nursing homes but its newer businesses encountered unexpected difficulties. Secure units for the mentally ill in Newbury and Milton Keynes were slow to fill, and the opening of two satellite facilities of the Ticehurst psychiatric hospital in East Sussex was delayed.

These businesses are now expected to "contribute significantly to the group's profits in future", said Pat Carrier, chief executive. Westminster has filled 43 of the 95 places in the secure units and agreed to accept another 25 patients.

The group was reporting a 11 per cent decline in full-year profits to £10.1 million. Earnings per share fell by 14 per cent to 0.70p, even after adjusting for the £30 million set aside to cover the costs of reorganising acquisitions and moving the accounting and information technology departments to Ireland.

Last year's acquisition of Libra Health Care, the Ticehurst business, helped push annual sales up 31 per cent to £145.1 million in the year to the end of May. Operating profits rose by 13 per cent to £20.8 million, but this benefit was outweighed by a sharp rise in interest charges to £10.7 million (£5.8 million).

The long-term care division or nursing homes, contributed £22.5 million of profits (£20.9 million) from revenue of £110.4 million. Westminster has filled 92 per cent of the 5,646 beds in its 91 homes, and the average weekly fee has risen from £352 to £394.

Behavioural medicine contributed £1.3 million of profits, up from £799,000. The diagnostics division, strengthened by the purchase in February of the North Thames Imaging Group, improved profits from £1.3 million to £1.1 million.

Westminster also owns a 49.4 per cent stake in Pwerve, a retirement housing management company, which reported £4.2 million of profits, up from £3.4 million.

An increased final dividend of 4.15p (4p) raises the total for the year to 7p. The share price slipped back 5.5p to 325p.



Shares in Morgan Stanley rose 1p to 235p after John Morgan, right, chairman of the construction group, revealed that it was running with a record order book of £44 million and that first-half profits had risen from £3.28 million to £5.05 million. The interim dividend rises from 1.67p to 2.05p out of earnings of 11.2p to 11.56p. John Bishop, finance director, and the board said the company was prepared for any slowdown in the economy

## Airtours is flying high with strong demand for charters

By Martin Taylor

SHARES IN Airtours rose 12p to 235p after the company reported a record first-half profit of £11.56 million, up from £11.2 million in the same period last year. The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

below last year's to "maximise profitability".

Tim Byrne, group finance director, said: "Given the growth of 8 per cent and 10 per cent in the charter market in the last two years, it's important that the industry resists the temptation to increase supply for a third consecutive year."

The pledge came on the back of virtually flat third-quarter profits. Pre-tax profits for the three months to June 30 rose marginally from £24.1 million to £24.6 million, on sales up 28 per cent at £735 million (£574 million).

Pre-tax profits for the nine months to June 30 were significantly down to £1.4 million

(£1.4 million) following losses in the seasonally quieter first half.

"The industry lost £16 million in 1995 due to over-capacity and we are simply not prepared to expose ourselves again," said Mr Byrne.

"Brochure sales is the market we want to be in. Profit lies not in the quantity of people

we push through, but the quality of the product we supply."

The company said difficulties in Scandinavia with over-capacity had been offset by improved performances in the UK and North America. It was confident its difficulties in Scandinavia would be resolved in the coming months.

The acquisitions of Bridge Travel Group and Cresta Holidays produced a profit of £3.1 million for the quarter, reflecting continuing strong demand in the UK for short breaks.

In its cruise operations, which include Costa Cruises, Airtours is having "an excellent year, with better demand, higher occupancy and improved margins". It is due to take delivery of its fourth ship next summer.

David Crossland, chairman, said: "We are examining a number of opportunities for further development and look to the future with confidence."

Tempus, page 28

## Poor summer takes toll of Treats

By Graham Smith

SHARES IN Treats fell 10p to 150p after the company reported a first-half profit of £1.3 million, down from £1.5 million in the same period last year. The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

The company's revenue rose 10 per cent to £1.1 billion, while operating profits were up 13 per cent to £208 million.

are great but the board believes that progress is being made in developing the business. The group will remain dependent on the weather by the very nature of its current products, but every effort will be made over time to reduce the volatility of the business."

Mr Fidler added that the change of name coincided with the decision to move the financial year end to September

30, which aligns more closely with the end of the main trading season.

Because of the shortened financial year, the board decided to merge the interim and final dividend and will not propose a dividend until its preliminary results in December 1998. Earnings per share fell from 9.2p to 4.7p and sales slipped from £25.3 million to £24.5 million.

Tempus, page 28

## Production stops at Halla forklift plant

A SOUTH KOREAN manufacturer of forklift trucks and excavators is halting production at its South Wales factory because of the Far East crisis. Dismayed staff at Halla, of Merthyr Tydfil, were today told of a second wave of redundancies at the £17 million plant that was officially opened by the Queen last year. Having announced 70 redundancies in January, Halla said it was cutting the remaining 70-strong workforce to just 30 after-sales service staff at the end of next month.

The Welsh Development Agency said it had been holding discussions with the company — both in Korea and the UK in the hope of safeguarding jobs. Halla was the first Korean manufacturer to set up in Wales and hoped to create 300 highly skilled jobs. Several of its original recruits went to Korea for training. The WDA spokeswoman said: "We very much regret that the financial situation in Asia has caused Halla to cease manufacturing at its Merthyr operation with the subsequent loss of jobs. We will continue to work with the company and vigorously pursue all avenues in an effort to maintain the long-term future of the site and maintain jobs in the area."

## Hemingway suffers

HEMINGWAY Properties, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £5.395 million to £1.581 million in the six months to June 30. The company made only £182,000 on property trading against £3.7 million in the previous first half. Earnings fell from 0.18p to 0.2p a share but the half-year dividend rose from 0.18p to 0.2p. The company, chaired by Stanislas Yassukovich, has just acquired Olive Property for £29 million and said: "We are poised to generate growth over the next few years." The company has, however, clocked up closure costs of £500,000 since the takeover took effect on June 2.

## Police look at banks

INDONESIA'S central bank has announced that 9 of the 16 banks it liquidated in November on suspicion that they violated banking rules have been reported to the police. Achyar Ilyas, a Bank Indonesia director, said: "Cases pertaining to nine liquidated banks have been handed to the police." The cases centered on suspicious activities by staff and violation of credit limits regulation. He did not name the banks. Indonesia closed 16 banks it considered insolvent as part of its drive to improve the ailing banking system after securing an international Monetary Fund rescue package for its economy.

## RAC sale approved

MEMBERS of the Royal Automobile Club yesterday overwhelmingly voted in favour of the sale of its motoring services side to Candant Corporation for £450 million. The vote means that each full member will receive a payout of nearly £34,000. The sale was approved by 97.7 per cent of members voting, with a total turnover of 84 per cent. The deal is now subject to regulatory approval. RAC members voted for the deal despite the troubles that have hit Candant, because of accounting mis-statements and a falling out in the boardroom at the American company.

## FKI sells Acco unit

FKI, the engineering group, has sold its Acco Systems unit to Durr for £13.7 million cash. Acco Systems manufactures conveyors for heavy industry, largely in North America and mainly for the car industry. The price assumes a net asset value of £7.5 million. The sale proceeds will be used to reduce FKI's short-term borrowings. Bob Beeston, the group's chief executive, said: "Following the sale last December of the Automotive Group, we have now exited from our remaining non-core automotive-related business." FKI shares gained 4p to 156p.

# Can we trust the Revenue?

Peter Foster on a David v Goliath battle that shows the burden faced by individuals fighting the taxman

PUBLICATION of draft regulations on the taxation of gifts from assets transferred abroad by an individual, there was a debate on tax avoidance was not the purpose. Contemporary briefing papers for the Financial Secretary show that persons non-resident at the date of transfer were to be exempt. This was confirmed by the Financial Secretary in Parliament. Nevertheless, the Revenue decided to apply the legislation to transfers by non-residents who had become UK residents. A view was some support from the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal in the 1995 case of *Woolwich*. The Revenue's view, but did not. The Revenue relied on "the exercise of power of the State" in resisting any challenge by an individual. Only in 1980, in the *Vestey* case,



Peter Foster's concern is sparked by draft rules on tax

nevertheless, unwilling to support Professor Williams' argument on his behalf. The Revenue had spent millions of pounds seeking to impose an interpretation that it would be wrong, and contrary to its original advice to the Financial Secretary. Subsequently the Revenue said that tax wrongly assessed from other individuals would be refunded. However, in a Budget press release this year, the Revenue attacked PPBs as "designed primarily for tax avoidance" — a generalisation contradicting the view of the Lords. Undoubtedly, some PPBs were taken out with a tax avoidance aim, but the draft regulations now published accept that there is a distinction between genuine saving, usually for retirement, and unacceptable tax avoidance.

There will be further measures against tax avoidance, whether by legislation against specific transactions or by a general anti-avoidance provision. Usually the Revenue will be the enforcer, whether by assessment or by clearance. In view of *Willoughby*, can we trust the Revenue to be impartial? Professor Willoughby gained the impression from the Revenue that most expatriates were seen as tax avoiders who went abroad for that reason. Recent debates published in *Hansard* echo this. Was this the motive behind the Revenue approach in *Willoughby*?

However clear legislation is, its interpretation by the Revenue may be seen as oppressive and partial, where the Revenue can easily resist any challenge by an individual. He must pay his own legal costs, win or lose, at the first appeal and if the Revenue takes the case to the Lords. The onus of proof is on him and procedure can work against him. Surely the rules must be changed.

The author is a partner in the law firm Speechly Bircham

# Merger saga is echo of yesterday's battles

THE surprise is, of course, that there is no surprise. There is nothing new under the sun. Anyone browsing through the latest of the Scots ICA's committee on accounting history will find startling parallels between then and now. The "then" is how the various accountancy bodies coped with trying to merge between 1930 and 1957. The "now" is the current effort to put three of the UK's six accountancy bodies together.

It is quite extraordinary how every squabble, every nuance of politics, every offence taken, every perception of arrogance and self-righteousness, is almost exactly what you would expect, and from whom, in today's world, more than half a century later. In 1929 the English ICA is horrified at government suggestions that all accountants be registered. It fears that this will lump them in with every accounting oik in the country. There are at this point 17 accounting bodies in existence, some extremely dubious in quality. So, in cahoots with the Scots ICA, they secretly go to the Government and suggest that only a low-level inquiry is needed. The idea of registration is duly rejected.

In 1942 the minister for post-war reconstruction, at a meeting to encourage accountancy bodies towards union, is exasperated and shouts "Why do you not put your own house in order?" In discussions of proposed legislation to co-ordinate the profession, disputes arose over the time that accountants in different bodies needed to train. The Scots wanted people to train for three years. The ACCA — then the Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants, but now the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants — wanted two years. The English ICA sent a delegate to Edinburgh to seek compromise. He reported back: "I cannot quite understand why they asked me to go because they showed no spirit of compromise and merely wished to emphasise their own points of view."

Meanwhile the Scots were finding it hard to keep their three constituent parts in order. "Each body was jealous of its heritage and anxious to preserve its own autonomy." The English started making "caustic remarks" about this. To try to force the Scots to join in, the English suggested that if they didn't, "it would be done for them" by the Government and that "the chartered profession" was in

peril from the ACCA "growing bigger and bigger".

War Cabinet papers then reveal that the ACCA "are very much inclined to rush their fences, which does not lessen the difficulties of negotiation". In 1947, when new companies legislation was under discussion, the Under-Secretary at the Board of Trade, after discussions with the English ICA, including Sir Russell Kettle, reported: "The certified accountants are numerous, but unimportant, and, in Kettle's view, useless." He then said, of the ACCA, that "it would be embarrassing, on application from important companies under the new Act, to have to consult someone not of the highest calibre". The English ICA felt that the ACCA should be included. The Under-Secretary said that if so, they should be careful who they selected.

"Those who are worth having are few and the older ones are obstructive," a minute says. There is a final *cri de coeur* in 1951 as it becomes clear that the legislation to allow registration of accountants is unlikely to succeed. ACCA minutes say: "After years of careful consideration... we are back to the place from which we started. It would appear that all our work has been badly done, that it has been defective and thus futile."

They add: "What are we going to tell our members? That of all the great professions ours is the only one that cannot evolve a scheme of registration or co-ordination — that where architects, dentists and others have tried and succeeded, accountants have tried and failed? That we are unable to meet our own needs or those of the public?"

All these things ring startlingly true today. Perhaps architects of current mergers should heed the advice of the authors of this study: "The experience of the 1940s and 1950s points to the importance of carrying all the participant organisations even if the result is a painstaking rate of progress. They also conclude that efforts are not likely to succeed "unless the desire for change is felt across the profession". Wise, historians.

Professional Reconstruction: The co-ordination of the accountancy bodies 1930-1957 by Ken Shackleton and Stephen Walker (Scottish Committee on Accounting History, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, Telephone 0131-225 5673)



ROBERT BRUCE

## Price to pay for flying Scotsman

FASHION pundits may have decreed that men in kilts are the sexiest thing to be seen this winter, but tax experts are scratching their heads over proposals for the winter tax when Scotland gets devolution. David Spence is president of the Scots ICA and a senior partner in Grant Thornton in London. So his schedule includes many appearances at London and Edinburgh airports. He has been calculating his hypothetical tax liability

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS

... have plagiarised those who have the word Taxpayers' charter? TAX and human rights may not seem obvious bedfellows, but the new Human Rights Bill may change this. It may become a weapon against oppressive tax authorities, selective securities, disproportionate penalties and even retrospective legislation. There is talk of Governments having said themselves in their tax foot. TaxAid, the tax-advice charity, is to run a conference on implications, on November 10. Details on 0171-624 5216.

## War of words

THE great merger battle between an enthusiastic Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, a hostile CIMA, the management accountants, and a reluctant CIPFA, the public-sector accounting body, has now come down to a battle of the Websites. CIMA has the words "Strong" and "Growing" landing like shellbursts over news of 91 per cent of members voting on the Website rejecting the plan. Over on the ACCA Website, its gently spoken past-president, David Leonard, insists that this just means that CIMA members think the style of the ACCA approach "inappropriate" while, in their hearts, supporting the strategy. The official response from CIMA to this is: "Claptrap". The dog days of summer have yet to arrive, but the silly season may have done.

ROBERT BRUCE



Handwritten note: "مركز زليخه"

Main table of unit trust prices with columns for fund names, prices, and percentages. Includes various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

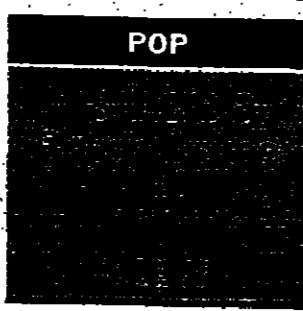
Advertisement for LEHMANN COMMUNICATIONS EC3, featuring the City of London logo and contact information: PR Today - Business Tomorrow, Call 0171 266 3020.

Wearing their prejudices... CHRISTOPHER... RODNEY MILNES









POP

# THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE

Callow steps into Erson Welles's shoes PAGE 18

NEW MOVIES: Geoff Brown reviews a week of seduced governesses, Louisiana family sagas... and absent Avengers

## The stately hormones of England

**T**welve inside pages and the cover of *The Times Magazine* on Saturday were devoted to *The Avengers*. Six pages and the cover were devoted to Uma Thurman, cast as the high-kicking, leather-clad Emma Peel in the screen version of the cult TV crime series. Six others spun off from the film into 1960s fashions. With publicity like this, who actually needs a review?

Warner Bros certainly doesn't. The company has declined to show *The Avengers* to the press in advance, a tactic traditionally lavished on films for which distributors fear bad reviews, and bad word-of-mouth. You could call it good business sense: you could call it cowardice.

So until tomorrow I cannot say whether the series' camp charms still holds when pumped up for modern audiences. Nor can I utter a word about Thurman's Mrs Peel, or Ralph Fiennes's version of the dandified John Steed, or Sean Connery's villain, Sir August De Wynter, who is bent on bringing the world to its knees by mucking up its weather (something *El Niño* is already doing nicely). I must be mum, too, about the directing skills of Jeremiah Chechik, last encountered all at sea with the futile *Diabolique*.

But I can certainly tell you about *Firelight*, in which Sophie Marceau, the young French embodiment of youth, sex and sauce, parades the cold corridors of a country house in the mid-19th century, bosom reined in by governess's weeds, mouth turned down with stoic despair. It is a British film, of course: who else but an Englishman would want to imprison Marceau in this way, and create a story in which all the main characters look peeved and snotted.

The culprit's name is William Nicholson, best known for telling the eccentric love story of the writer C. S. Lewis in *Shadowlands*, on television, on the stage and in the cinema. For *Firelight*, a film both beautiful and famous, shot two winters ago, Nicholson directs and writes, and does both with great deliberation. The very first shot brings amber flames in a grate; firelight also keeps flickering into the dialogue, mostly as a symbol for freedom. "The firelight gives more light than one expects," muses Stephen Dillane, an English landowner with an invalid wife, in need of an heir, who secretly pays Marceau, a Swiss governess, to conceive a child during one weekend on the French coast.

Seven years later, behind Dillane's stiff back, Marceau hires herself as governess to her own offspring, a haughty, uncontrollable miss (played by eight-year-old Dominique Beccourt). To warm her up in the

**Firelight**  
Virgin Haymarket  
15, 103 mins  
Very British tale of unrequited love  
**Eve's Bayou**  
Virgin Trocadero  
15, 108 mins  
Succulent and poetic family drama  
**Gang Related**  
Virgin Trocadero  
15, 111 mins  
Half-gripping tale from the mean streets  
**Majorettes in Space**  
ICA Cinema, 83 mins  
Striking programme of French gay shorts

Sussex winter, Marceau remarks that firelight allows you to "do what you want, say what you want, be what you want". Cue more amber light, in time Dillane feels the fire sufficiently to whisk the governess into his bed in the name of love, but not before characters suffer bankruptcy, or risk death by drowning or the emotional version of frostbite.

You can see what Nicholson is getting at. He aims at a minimalist "heritage" movie: one where the empty spaces of the country house and the wintry landscapes outside signify the deep-freeze within. He aims for the tragedy of unrequited love, set to a music score (by Christopher YOUNG) heavy with weeping violins.

But for all his care, and the handsome photography of Nic Morris, the artifice of the confection is too much to take. For one thing, how could anyone as attractive as Marceau be condemned to a spinster's profession? "My dear, you're very pretty; you could marry, you know!" she is told in the first scene. With that line, the film ends almost before it has begun.

**A**fter such English foolishness, what relief to journey to and move American independent film, set among the moss, fronds and sweat of Louisiana. No hiding or hedging feelings here: emotions bubble easily to the surface, and we watch enraptured as they shape the lives of a prosperous African-American family in the summer of 1962.

Eve herself is ten years old, a sensitive child who accidentally catches her father Louis, the amorous local doctor, making love to the next-door neighbour. Soon there is more to worry about: a dream foretelling an uncle's death, a possible curse on the local children, and more facts about her father's improprieties. Before long she bluntly asks a voodoo priestess, "How do you kill



Lessons in the cruel realities of love: Sophie Marceau plays the spurned Swiss governess in William Nicholson's chronicle of simmering lusts in a Victorian country house, *Firelight*

someone with voodoo!", and ominously gathers hair from her father's hairbrush. A straight narrative line, however, cannot suggest the richness of the film's texture, both emotionally and visually. This is a first feature for the writer and director Kasi Lemmons, known previously as an actress; but she marshals her resources like a veteran, strengthening what might have been a staple coming-of-age saga with a vibrant feel for local colour and customs.

Here is a film with an air of mystery, but no gloom and doom. Instead of the pained, pinched looks of *Firelight*, the screen vibrates with expressive faces, predominantly female. Junee Smollett, ten years old, is a marvel as the precocious and plaintive Eve, wading into adult matters without quite knowing their significance; Lynn Whitfield and Debbi Morgan are equally seductive as her elegantly genteel mother and rather wilder psychic aunt, each trying in different ways to deal with Louis's weakness.

Samuel L. Jackson takes a break from pulp fiction to play this role (and to co-produce). He is plausibly suave and romantic; and neither he nor Lemmons make the mistake of painting the character one colour. The husband who hurts and deceives is also the father who loves and cherishes.

All lives in *Eve's Bayou* seem interconnected, and the film is peculiarly sensitive to the rough and tumble of growing up, living, loving and dying, within one family. Not since *To Sleep with Anger* in 1990 has there been an African-American film with such a unique sensibility, folkloric lilt and universal appeal.

"We're gonna find the killer!" snaps homicide detective James Belushi. "We are the killer!" partner Tupac Shakur replies. Belushi shrugs off hard facts and morality: "Since when did that matter?" So off they go in *Gang Related*, trying to find a poor sap to take the rap for their own blunder, when they shot to death a drug lord, unaware of his true identity: an undercover agent.

No folkloric lilt here, then. But there is much gripping action and caustic detail as the cops, no stranger to drug deals themselves, abandon any lingering scruples and scour the streets for a fall guy. They meet a drunken shape on the sidewalk: you can just about distinguish Dennis Quaid beneath the skid-row whiskers and dirt.



Junee Smollett and Samuel L. Jackson in *Eve's Bayou*: "This outshines any other film released this week"

**TOO** bedazzled to remember his name? Joe will do - he is persuaded of his guilt, and is duly sent to trial. At this point, Joe's true identity emerges, along with clichés that drag down the film into conventional territory.

*Gang Related*, though, for its first half, when the writing and acting bites. Jim Kouss, the writer-director, is usually associated with fairly trivial crime escapades. Here he stops joking; and Belushi and Shakur tread the mean streets of their unnamed city with grim panache. Shakur particularly fascinates. For one thing, his character retains a few moral quibbles; for another, shortly after filming ended in 1996, Shakur was killed in a drive-by shooting in Las Vegas.

*Majorettes in Space*, a striking programme of five recent gay short films from France, is also worth catching during its two-week residence at the ICA Cinema. Iconoclastic director François Ozon is the star attraction. His exquisitely shaped short *A Summer Dress* (a boy wears a girl's dress on the beach) has toured many festivals; though it seems firmly next to *A Little Death*, an awesomely abrasive 26 minutes with the weight of a full-length film.

Sex and death rub together as a gay photographer finds a family reconciliation of sorts taking shots of his father dying in hospital. Ozon has now made the jump from shorts to features: so see this programme, and be prepared for future shocks.

## Jack the lad goes frolicking

**AS GOOD AS IT GETS**  
*Columbia TriStar, 15, 1997*  
HERE comes Jack Nicholson, raising those eyebrows again, throwing a dog down the garbage chute, and insulting people right, left and centre. James Brooks's synthetic crowd-pleasing comedy drama casts him as an obsessive-compulsive writer of romantic fiction, whose life becomes entwined with a single mother (Helen Hunt) and a gay artist who suffers a vicious mugging (Greg Kinnear). The dog plays a part too. Nicholson's truculence sparks surface laughter, but the script goes through so many somersaults that it is hard to take the emotions seriously. A rental release.

**THE ICE STORM**  
*Buena Vista, 15, 1997*  
POINTED, witty and beautifully directed drama about family upheavals in the permissive 1970s. Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver and Joan Allen are among those tossed about by wind and rain one Thanksgiving weekend in the Connecticut suburbs, where sex is on everybody's minds and a cocktail party becomes the pretext for a little light wife-swapping. Director Ang Lee crafts the film with the same care and keen eye for social behaviour that he showed in *Sense and Sensibility*. Ice has rarely looked so beautiful, or symbolic, or dangerous. Available to rent.

**IN & OUT**  
*CIC, 12, 1997*  
YOU are a high school teacher in a clean-cut town, about to be married. A former pupil, now an actor, praises you in his Oscar acceptance speech, and adds "And he's gay!". Confirmation results, not least in the mind of Kevin Kline, the teacher, who thinks he is straight. This genial comedy takes a mainstream approach to sexual orientation. But all audiences should appreciate its witty lines, good heart and endearing performance by Kline as the prissy teacher with a passion for Barbra Streisand. Matt Dillon is good value as the Hollywood star, and Tom Selleck has fun as a gay TV reporter eagerly pursuing the story. A rental release.

**RIOT IN CELL BLOCK II**  
*4 Front, 15, 1994*  
THE producer Walter Wanger knew all about prisons when he made this gritty low-budget film - he had just spent 102 days in one for shooting the agent of his wife, actress Joan Bennett. For further authenticity, the director Don

### NEW ON VIDEO

Siegel filmed on location, using inmates as extras and a non-starry cast (Neville Brand as riot leader, Emile Meyer as prison governor, both memorable). Riveting drama.

**THE SUN SHINES BRIGHT**  
*4 Front, PG, 1953*  
"MY FAVOURITE picture - I love it," said the esteemed director John Ford. Easy to see

why: this quiet ramble through Irvin Cobb's Judge Priest stories (previously filmed by Ford in the 1930s) positively glows with benign humour, small-town atmosphere, simple sentiment and the director's favourite character actors. Charles Winninger plays a Kentucky judge up for re-election; the film's style is totally anachronistic, but Ford was following his heart, not Hollywood fashions.

Geoff Brown

"POWERFUL AND MOVING. FILLED TO THE BRIM WITH HUMOUR AND FULL-BLOODED LUST. THIS IS A TRULY GREAT MOVIE."  
"A MOODY AND EROTIC FILM ABOUT THE POWER OF DESIRE."  
*Firelight*  
STARTS TOMORROW  
VIRGIN FILMCLASH  
CINEZON  
DAVID LEAN  
AND 41 CINEMAS ACROSS NATIONWIDE

THE AVENGERS THE NEW AVENGERS  
Collect the original and best ON VIDEO  
INDIVIDUALLY NUMBERED LIMITED EDITION VIDEOS AND EXCLUSIVE BOX SET  
Woolworths

SNAP VERDICT  
'Fresh air'  
Every week young film fans discuss the latest releases...  
EVE'S BAYOU  
Leslie Isalah Thomas, 20: Great story, great acting and great direction. Outshines any other film released this week.  
FIRELIGHT  
Leslie: Extremely boring. I felt sorry for Stephen Dillane and Sophie Marceau who both act their socks off.  
GANG RELATED  
Leslie: A fast, furious piece of entertainment. It has realism coming out of its ears.

RODNEY MILNES



LISTINGS Elgar's 'Third' at Proms

ARTS

POP Big voices matter

Looking for voices in the wilderness

POP: A record label has been set up to uncover Britain's proper singers. Alan Jackson reports

Producer Chris Neil doesn't mince words when asked for his opinion of those UK record company employees currently responsible for signing and nurturing new talent. "There's not that many brave A&R men out there," he says bluntly. "There's no global overview. These people are only concerned with what's happening within the two square miles of London's West End, and with appearing cool among their peers..."

Neil's career in that market began in a small way in 1977 with Heaven on the Seventh Floor, a throw-away pop number that had given the accepted-transatlantic chart success. Bigger hits with Leo Sayer and Sheena Easton bolstered Neil's reputation, but it was with Mike & the Mechanics and, later, Celine Dion that he confirmed his status as a shrewd judge of populist American taste.

Neil believes there must be young artists as accomplished as Dion languishing in Britain right now. "I seriously wonder if anyone would sign them, though. British A&R men just don't understand the Whitney and Celine market - never mind that Celine outsells a band like Oasis five to one." Meanwhile, as he looks for his own diva-in-waiting, he is putting the finishing touches to what will be Vox Humana's debut release, an album by a 20-year-old - shaven-headed singer-songwriter from Lockerbie, Scotland, called Ben Smith, due out towards the end of the year.



Can you sing as well as Celine Dion? If so, don't hide it, get in touch with Chris Neil

Neil believes there must be young artists as accomplished as Dion languishing in Britain right now. "I seriously wonder if anyone would sign them, though. British A&R men just don't understand the Whitney and Celine market - never mind that Celine outsells a band like Oasis five to one." Meanwhile, as he looks for his own diva-in-waiting, he is putting the finishing touches to what will be Vox Humana's debut release, an album by a 20-year-old - shaven-headed singer-songwriter from Lockerbie, Scotland, called Ben Smith, due out towards the end of the year.

"There's nothing to beat the sound of a great human voice," beams Neil, as he beats time on the steering wheel. "and this is the sound of a great human voice."

putting the finishing touches to what will be Vox Humana's debut release, an album by a 20-year-old - shaven-headed singer-songwriter from Lockerbie, Scotland, called Ben Smith, due out towards the end of the year.

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by James Christopher

LONDON

BBC PROMS: Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's Ninth and Mozart's Piano Concerto No 17 (Howard Shelley is the soloist). Then comes the much-awaited completion by Anthony Payne of the sketches for Elgar's Symphony No 3. Payne gives a Pre-Prom talk about the composer's unfinished work and his own contribution at 5.45pm. Albert Hall (0171-639 8212). Tonight, 7pm.



Christine Tobin fills the Vortex with her sultry jazz

CHRISTINE TOBIN BAND: Best known for her work with folk-fusion band Llamas, the British vocalist Christine Tobin showcases her new contemporary jazz material from the album, House of Wonders. Vortex, 418 (0171-254 8216). Tonight, 8pm.

THE HONEST WHORE: Decadence in high and low places traps the heroines of Dekker's sexy drama, directed in modern dress by Jack Shepherd. Today, 8pm. Followed this evening by A Mad World, My Mad Masters. Here low-life characters swarm through London's East End in the 17th century. London. Tonight, 7pm.

ELSEWHERE

ALDERBURGH: Three outstanding exponents of the blues form Blues Guitar Trio. Dave Kelly, widely regarded as the finest blues slide guitarist this country has produced, is joined by Steve Phillips and Brendan O'Keefe of the Nocturnal Habitats. Stage Matting Concert Hall (01728 463543). Tonight, 7.30pm.

NEW WEST END SHOWS

- Jersey Kingdon's choice of theatre showing in London
Hosts full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices
LOOT: Joe Onton's celebrated black farce transfers from Chichester after sell-out houses. Vauxhall, WC2 (0171-838 9887).

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

Geoff Brown's choice of the best movies

- NEW RELEASES
THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (G): First feature through Sherwood Forest in Hollywood's evergreen swashbuckler of 1938. With Olivia de Havilland, Basil Rathbone, and Claude Rains, Michael Curtiz and William Keighly direct.

CLASSICAL CDS: A legendary tenor recalled; a scholar in composer mode; and period-instrument Mendelssohn

OPERA
HEROES
Beniamino Gigli's Various orchestras/conductors
EMI 5 66809 2 \*\*\* £10.49
Gigli is a natural for EMI's new series Heroes, a handy title for recycling some of the material in the company archives. His association with them dates back to 1918 and lasted to his retirement in 1955. The only blot on this selection is the extraordinary cover photo of turning him into a dead ringer for Mussolini, which he wasn't - although it could be argued that the bulk of the tracks come from the years during and immediately before the last war, when Gigli was in his prime.

ORCHESTRAL
MACKENZIE/TOVEY
Scottish Concerto: Piano Concerto in A
Osborne/BBC Scottish SO/Brabbins CDA 67023
\*\*\* £14.99
EVERY music student knows the name of Sir Donald Francis Tovey. His musical analyses are a staple of the genre, but very few of Tovey's own compositions are ever performed. Anyone who expected something dry and academic from such a pen would be utterly wrong, for his Piano Concerto - receiving its premiere recording here - teems with imagination and bonhomie. Unashamedly Brahmsian, the first movement is robust and

CHAMBER
MENDELSSOHN
Quartets Op 12, 13
Quatuor Mosaïques
Audiis Astrée E 8622
\*\*\* £15.49
WHEN accused of creating something of a headache for his listeners with all that dense counterpoint in his Op 13 String Quartet, Mendelssohn replied that interpretation was the thing: if the work were performed with love and passion then all would be well. And so it is in this new recording of Mendelssohn's earliest two quartets. The Quatuor Mosaïques have already shown bright new light on Haydn, Mozart and Schubert. There are period performances, but it is not so much the

fine old instruments they play nor their sparing use of vibrato and rubato, but the deeply pondered understanding of the idiom of each composer they approach which makes their performances so special. That love and passion certainly radiates from the fine balance of parts that opens Op 13. It rises, too, from the perfect pacing of the Adagio non lento, and from the impassioned recitative at the start of the finale. And in the Op 12 the Mosaïques capture the very essence of the young Mendelssohn's sensibility.
HILARY FINCH
\* Worth hearing
\*\* Worth considering
\*\*\* Worth buying

THEATRES

A large grid of theatre listings for various venues including Apollo Victoria, Dominion Theatre, Gaiety Theatre, and others. Each listing includes the show title, dates, and contact information.

Advertisement for 'Sweet Charity' musical, featuring a 'Final Performance' on August 15th at the Victoria Palace Theatre.

Advertisement for 'Don Williams 1998 Tour' listing dates and venues across the UK.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, partially cut off, featuring the text 'Who kill living' and 'What's i'.



هكذا من زليعيل

THEATRE

Chichester stages a movie

ARTS

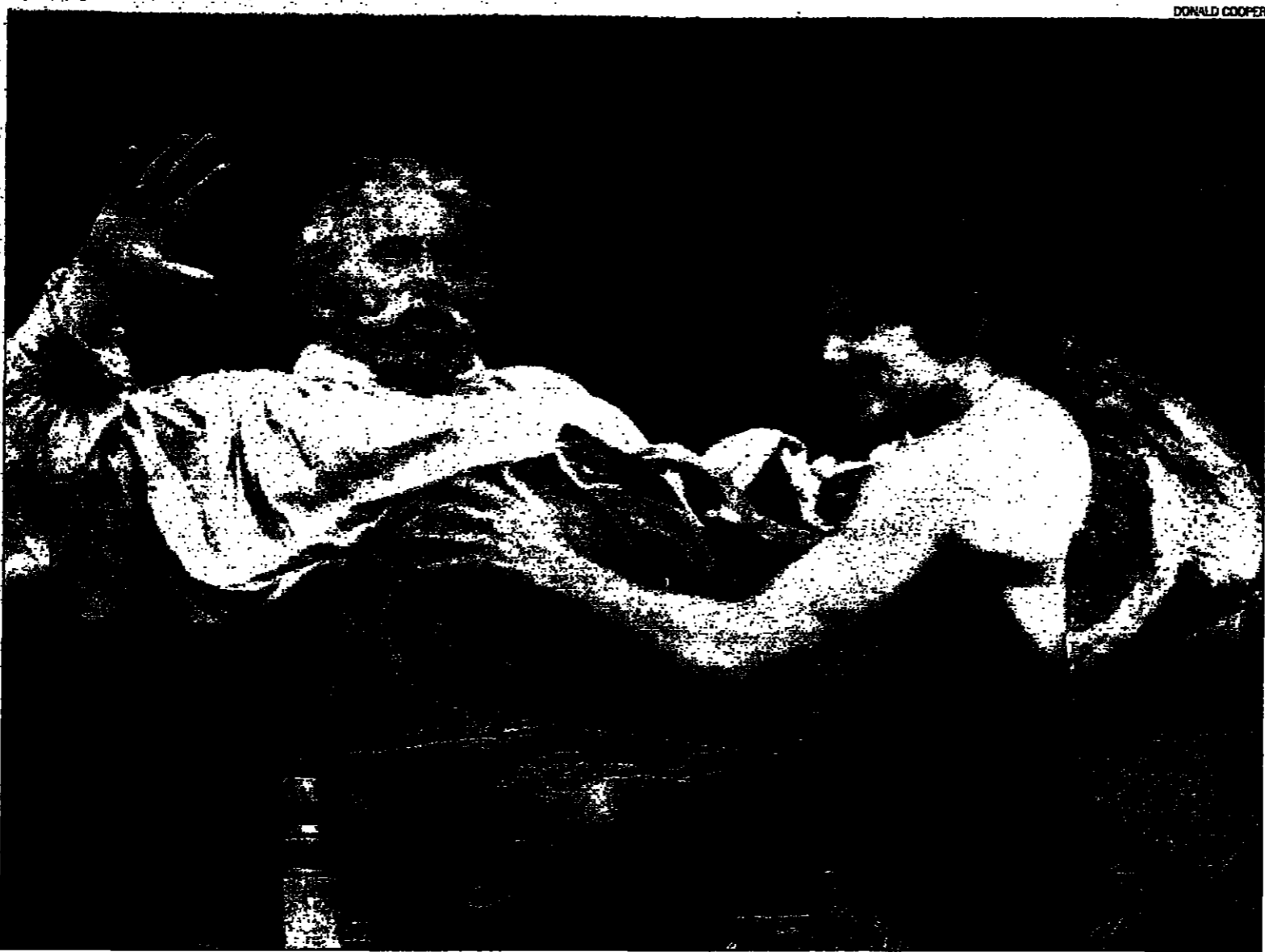
MUSIC

Spectacular Glennie

THEATRE: Orson Welles staged in Chichester; plus, Fringe productions in Edinburgh and London

What's it all about, Orson?

In 1959, moved by a longing for precise musical in his career, Orson Welles pushed both parts of Shakespeare's Henry IV into a sausage machine and pulled out a play that would be over and done with in just three hours. He tackled the report of Falstaff's death from Henry V and added excerpts from Holinshed's Chronicles to give historical context but, unlike his famous contribution to The Third Man, seems to have contributed no lines of his own. Falstaff does not fix Hal with a steely eye and tell him that



Simon Callow (Falstaff) and Tam Williams (Hal) in Patrick Garland's Chichester revival of Orson Welles's problematic play Chimes at Midnight

England will enjoy 500 years of democracy but all we shall produce is Big Ben.

Unlike the film, the original production of the play Chimes at Midnight was a flop d'été and Patrick Garland's revival explains why this was bound to be so. The story keeps falling apart — or, rather, for precious little dynamic connection exists between court, tavern and battlefield. Why are all these Worcester and Percies revolting against the king? What is the heir to the throne doing in the company of thieves? What's it all about, Orson?

With regard to the first, the Chorus looks up from a volume of Holinshed and tells us that the king, Henry Bolingbroke as was, stole the throne that should have passed to his nephew Edmund. Shakespeare fails to make us aware of this, and for good reason because from that point onward, and it is the very start of the play, we have no reason to give Henry IV the least respect, even though Keith Baxter plays him in rose-coloured brocade with a Gielgud voice.

Why should we now care if Tam Williams in his loose

white shirt ends up by proving himself a worthy heir? Traces survive of the contrast between his peevish father and the rapacious father-surrogate — how could there not — but no sense comes through that this is a learning process. Garland certainly gives us an attractive picture of the affection between Hal and Falstaff, opening their first scene together with Williams curled up

like a sleeping bear-cub against Simon Callow's voltmeter belly. But Williams has difficulty relating his contrary feelings to this intriguing devil, whose neat grey moustachios are in such contrast to his untidy lifestyle.

Williams can be touchingly young and persuasive, as when he assures his anxious brother (Sebastian Warrack) that he is no fratricidal Turk,

but the auditorium is no kinder to his voice than to anyone else's. Falstaff's lies are dismissed as incomprehensible but the same is true for far too many speeches. Roar, yell, mumble. It's exhausting, even in scenes not interrupted by Eastcheap louts yelling where's this and poxy that.

Callow judges the acoustics better. His mellow voice comes rumbling up from be-

hind his leathern breastplate, past the trim beard and out between lips as full as Welles's. He shakes with delighted joy after comparing Sarah Badell's Mistress Quickly to an otter, and is shaken with terror at his rejection. But except for such passing pleasures this abstract of Shakespeare offers little reward.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Men who kill for a living

For several years now Jeremy Weller's Grassmarket Project has been bringing onstage our society's unheeded and unheard — the homeless, the mentally disturbed, prisoners — and giving them the chance to tell their stories. But something curdled inside me when I heard that Soldiers was opening this festival's Traverse season. It was to be about men "who have killed" — the publicity blurb repeated the phrase four times in as many sentences — and the effect of the experience on them. A morbid, emotionally voyeuristic evening seemed in prospect. I should have trusted Weller more. True, bringing together a war correspondent called Jane Kokan and several ex-soldiers has not resulted in a neat, accessible piece of theatre. Structurally, it is chaotic. You sometimes wonder if liberties have been taken with fact, so it is confusing too. And if you think military men have parade-ground voices, think again. I had to strain to hear people who spoke as if the foe was lurking two bushes away — irritating, but maybe revealing too.

EDINBURGH

Yet Kokan's encounters with two Scots — uptight Frank, who claimed that killing an IRA terrorist in self-defence had not upset him at all, and erratic Dave, who had returned from a stint in Ireland a violent, suicidal loner — did produce revealing moments. Frank loosened up enough to admit he felt murderous when the women of the Falls hurled missiles and abuse at the rookie whose throat had just been blown out, and that he almost shot the English sergeant who stopped him, killing the sneering Prow who had just destroyed his truck. No wonder, perhaps, he avoids open windows and finds it hard to trust people.

But Weller's most remarkable import is a Canadian called Nick, who has served with the French Foreign Legion and the Croatian section of the Bosnian Federation Army. Search me if he really prevented Jane from going with camera and no gun onto the front line. As with the episode in which Dave invades and trashes her flat, this may



Julie Clare in Arnold Wesker's Letters to a Daughter at the Assembly Rooms

be fiction. But Nick has information well worth hearing, especially about what (and, not for the first time, more background explanation would help) are presumably Serb atrocities in the former Yugoslavia.

Nick pours scorn on the idea that soldiers enjoy killing, yet he inadvertently contradicts himself when he talks of Bosnia in the mid-1990s. His own brother joined up, was captured, and, while comrades were daily murdered, somehow survived months of imprisonment, starvation and the most horrible torture. His earnest sing-song voice, his

plain man's belief in good, evil, duty and honour, and his paradoxical sensitivity (dying men are "like kittens in their utter helplessness") command respect. Certainly, he left me feeling that the soldier Mardic and the war leader Karadzic must answer to the world for their crimes.

Letters to a Daughter (Assembly Rooms) is a pleasant, unassuming reminder that Arnold Wesker is still with us and still writing, if seldom getting his work staged. Julie Clare, a fine singer and a bold, bustling performer, is the chanteuse mentally composing missives to the 11-year-old

child whose absence father has suddenly, maddeningly reappeared. Guilt, anger, self-acusation and much else surface, along with Weskerisms that mostly sound less priggish than in the dramatist's high didactic days. After all, what's so awful about telling your progeny "don't blame other people when things go wrong", "don't live by dogma", and so on? If more parents combined sense with authority, the world might have less need for Nick and his chums.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Piece of rough

Bogey men are a daily hazard of Irish life. There are few, however, who inspire as much witch-hunt fear as the active homosexual, who, in the official hierarchy of villains, comes somewhere below child molesters, colourists and pervers. Aodham Madden wrote the chilling Sea Urchins (Grac Theatre, London SW11) after a group of youngsters fatally queer-bashed a married man, and, rather than being imprisoned, were subsequently bound to the peace. Seeing his play among the gloomy stults that support Dublin's Den Loughaire pier, Madden shows us a gang of cindered-up young scavengers dreaming about the exotic lights of Liverpool, while casually planning to queer-bash a man who has apparently tempted one of their number with a fiver. Wearing their prejudices as

lightly as their singlet vests, Huey, Pug, Squint, Smokey and child prostitute Ria rear playground strips off each other and squabble over bottles of booze. Familial abuse swirls around them like a bad smell.

Method acting, tortuous mumbling and a lot of stuffles on the floor are supposedly the winning ingredients of Joel Froomkin's production. But with dreadful slightness and a jerky soundtrack of the sea drowning out huge chunks of weakly intoned dialogue, it is almost impossible to follow what's going on.

That the chief villain of the piece, Shane Taylor's Huey, also transpires to be its chief victim, has all the surprise of a Marks & Spencer Christmas cracker. The target is equally obvious and the fact that Huey beats him to death because he can't stomach his own sexual predilections is the only emotionally authentic moment.

The infinitely young cast "make a game of it but you never" have much inclination to buy into the script. JAMES CHRISTOPHER

Voices win against odds

OPERA

The Holland Park summer season has been a nice mixture of the mainstream and the off-beat and ended, as it had started, in the former category with La traviata, staged by the somewhat hubristically named English Festival Opera. The main come-on was Jane Leslie Mackenzie, who had launched the season so memorably with her Nedda in Pagliacci. Purely vocally her Violetta didn't disappoint: she had all the notes within her grasp — though her grip gets a little slippery around top D flat — and her fluid, cleanly defined tone and command of long legato lines are extremely impressive. Why does this accomplished singer not work regularly with bigger companies? Well, she could make words work harder for her — the opera was sung in the Italian of Stratford-upon-Avon — and both her vowels and consonants were underprojected. And in happier surroundings she

somewhere. Recklessness at the parties was confined to games of hide-and-seek and blind man's buff, plus a few chaps in drag — thank heavens I wasn't invited. So the singers really were on their own, and David Newman (Alfredo) came out best. He started with the advantage of looking barely out of his teens — only extreme youth makes Alfredo's behaviour halfway tolerable — and after a dry start brought more honey to his tone. He is a natural, instinctive actor, sang off the words, and used them to shape the lines imaginatively. His only mistake was to attempt one verse of his cabaret, which ended in an ugly squawk. Jeffrey Carl has a fine, fruity baritone, but made a disappointingly wooden Germont. Again, conductor and director should share the blame. The chorus worked hard.

RODNEY MILNES

Elgar played at fever pitch

If we had to make do with visual theatre for the first half of this concert, the second was as gripping a musical experience as any in this season. The audience was delighted by the conductor Leonard Slatkin's own music-with-a-message, and by Evelyn Glennie's percussive gymnastics, but the tangible concentration with which he engaged in the turbulent narrative of Elgar's Second Symphony was something else.

As Elgar wrote, he worked on the first movement at fever heat and the thing has tremendous energy. That energy surges through the whole in the lurching cross-rhythms and mobile counterpoint, and is present in the very first few bars, where Elgar's genius is to rein in the orchestra before opening the flood gates.

Slatkin's generous but decisive hand on the symphony could be felt from that first chord. He drives it through with passion, choosing not to linger in the first movement on string melodies in which others find a shimmering grace. It was a pleasure to hear the power of the Philharmonia strings, playing with real attack and depth: cellos brought a radiant sound to their malign tune, while in the second movement the first violins' deep song was beautifully judged and textured.

In this slow movement, Slatkin showed his mastery over the rhythmic tensions as the oboe's threnody was buffeted by double bass and timpani beats. He created a thrilling climax to the Rondo (And the wheels go over my head) and an involving Finale. What prevented a fully integrated performance was the striking im-



Albert Hall, No. 3

balance between sometimes rough horns and the orchestra, caused mainly by the idiosyncrasies of the hall itself. Slatkin solved that problem in his own modest House-warming by placing fanfare horns and trumpets up in the gallery and by interrupting his orchestral passacaglia with children walking in, jangling bells. The fact that they exit humming the passacaglia is symbolic of passing on music to the next generation: would it were that simple, but this was effectively staged.

All modern percussion concertos tend towards impressive physical theatre, and Joseph Schwantner's is no exception. The highlight here was Evelyn Glennie, truly a dancer and musician rolled into one. Her execution of its technical challenges was mesmerising, while the rhythmic bite and elasticity of her marimba playing would put many pianists to shame.

In the first and third movements the Philharmonia percussionists provided excellent back-up, creating a sort of terraced Marimba Spectacular which smacked of a Night Out at the London Palladium. As for the music itself, Bertie Wooster's immortal comment is all too appropriate: it was loud in spots, and less loud in other spots, and it had that quality of seeming to last much longer than it did.

HELEN WALLACE

SEE IT... NO MATTER WHAT Andrew Lloyd Webber's terrific new musical with lyrics by rock legend Jim Steinman 'COMPLETELY COMPLETELY BRILLIANT' WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND. ALDWYCH THEATRE CALL NOW 0171 416 6000 0171 957 4001



POET OF THE NORTH  
Armitage heads home

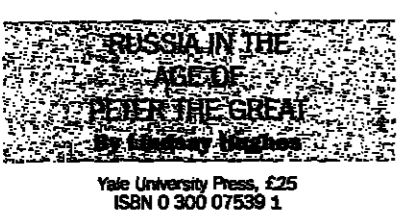
BOOKS

DEPTFORD DISGUISE  
Secrets of Peter the Great

Lawrence James finds the fearful zeal of Peter the Great resonant for modern Russia

Off with their beards

In modern Russia the present is unbearable and the future unthinkable. Only the past offers reassurance and hope, which is why patriotic Russians buy Peter I cigarettes, for the smoker who "believes in the revival of the traditions and greatness of the Russian land". For advertising copywriters and, for that matter, Boris Yeltsin, Peter the Great is a symbol of happier times in which Russia was striding forward and counted for something in the world.



the long-term implications of Peter's changes. The result is a book which makes us aware of the nature of those often contending historic forces that have made Russia what it is now.

Tradition was one of the strongest. Far from being its upholder, Peter was denounced as a meddlesome reformer who rode roughshod over hallowed customs and ignored the wisdom of his ancestors. Old Russia looked to the past for its inner strength and distrusted everything foreign; Peter looked to the West and believed that its genius alone could redeem Russia. This was heresy and Orthodox clerics branded the Tsar as the Antichrist. A monk declared that the introduction of "German", ie, Western European, clothing was a device to convert Russians to Islam. His protest was answered in the traditional manner: the knot, the covering of his tongue and perpetual hard labour.

Medieval punishments were employed to enforce a programme of modernisation. Such incongruities have remained part of the Russian experience until the present. Peter was the first in a line of autocrats who refused to leave the people alone: they did not know what was for their own good and had to be dragged rather than led towards a better world. Peter's reign (1682-1725) saw the establishment of that durable principle by which the individual Russian put aside his own happiness and submitted to whatever his rulers thought necessary for the general good. Russians shaved off their beards because Peter regarded them as impediments, raising insignia of national backwardness. Those who cherished their whiskers were fined. In Astrakhan, those who rejected razors, tobacco and Western fashions were stripped of their clothes and thrashed by officials. The machinery of coercion was always on hand to deal with the recalcitrant in Peter's Russia, as it was in the Russia of Lenin's and Stalin.



Not above doing his own research: Peter the Great mucks in at the dockyards of Deptford; painting by Daniel Maclise.

Like them, the Tsar dressed simply. He also cultivated an image of himself as a man-of-the-people and, in so far as this was possible for a 6ft 7in giant, moved

anonymously among his subjects. This was the Peter who rolled up his sleeves and got stuck in alongside shipwrights in Deptford where he had come to learn how to build warships.

And yet while Peter cocked a snook at protocol, he exploited to the utmost his authoritarian powers which derived from the Byzantine emperors and, through them, to the Roman. He also inherited a country that was the prey of predatory neighbours, chiefly Swedes and Turks, and which desperately needed a modern army and navy to survive. Peter provided both and much more, including a modern, Western-style capital, St Petersburg.

Moscow, with its onion-domed churches, looked eastwards to Asia, while St Petersburg's classical facades looked westwards across the Baltic and beyond to Europe. This was where the Tsar believed his nation's destiny lay. His energy and willpower transformed Russia into a power that made things happen, rather than a nation to which things happened, which is why his memory and achievements are honoured today.

Do they deserve such reverence? Professor Hughes is unsure and rightly so. Peter was a dilettante who undertook a Grand Tour of Europe and brought back whatever he fancied in the way of experts, technology, artefacts and up-to-date military textbooks. They were the accessories needed for an unprecedented acceleration of change. Its ultimate beneficiaries were the State, the police and the Armed Services rather than the people. No wonder, then, that a modern Russian historian has detected in Peter "the true ancestor of Stalin", the man who once privately likened himself to a tsar.

The verse thing about old age

Roger Scruton admires C. H. Sisson, elegiast for a vanishing England

The first collection of the poet C. H. Sisson, *The London Zoo*, appeared in 1961, when the poet was 47 years old. At the time he was a civil servant, in which profession he continued until retirement in 1974, a private figure whose identity lies concealed behind his plain initials. Like Eliot in his bank, Wallace Stevens in his insurance office and Larkin in his library, Sisson devoted himself at his Whitehall desk to literature, not for the sake of glory but for the love of words. While rising to the rank of Under-Secretary, he found time not only for poetry, but also for two novels, a book of political theory, a plethora of essays, and extended translations from French, German, Italian and Latin. If all civil servants were like Sisson, they would surely be less bother to the rest of us. Now, in his 85th year, his lifetime's poetry has been collected, ending with short lyrics written since *What and Who* (1994), in which Sisson contemplates, with undiminished intelligence, his approaching death. Two adjacent poems summarise the feelings of this housebound invalid:

It is necessity of speech  
Which drives a man, though he is dumb.  
As he descends and gropes his way  
Along the ultimate stone paths of age.  
Against which Sisson tells us that:  
The best thing to say is nothing  
And that I do not say,  
But I will say it, when I lie  
In silence all the day.

This manner of bleakly staring death in the face is not new. It has been a continuing theme of Sisson's writing; indeed, Sisson's verse has never for a moment denied that it is the voice of a middle-aged and disillusioned man. It begins from the premise that youthful passion has been spent, and wasn't worth it anyway. Religion, too, which has filled the mind with vague hopes of community, endures only as a memory. Other people have been stripped of their magic, and pass the window of Sisson's poetry as things curious and observed. They are not loved, but forgiven, for their faults are no greater than those which the poet observes in himself: folly, fear and the occasional frenzy of misplaced guilt or compassion.

Sisson's self-deprecating manner should not blind us to the fact that there

are some things about which he has deeply cared. He has eloquently defended the Anglican Church against its hierarchy; literature against writers; England against the English; Europe against the advocates of Europe — but always with a wry sense that a cause is lost, just as soon as he feels called upon to join it.

Goodnight, and hang me on a tree  
Or lead me to the firing squad:  
Say, he pretended once to be  
The patriot and the friend of God.  
It is not quite so bad as that,  
But once I dabbled in the Creed  
And England always has my love  
— Two eccentricities indeed  
But hardly capital offences.

The love of England lies deeper for Sisson than any other feeling. It outlasts the ruin of his hopes, and reconciles him to the pain of living. He is a Romantic at heart, but with a Modernist's awareness of the impossibility of being anything quite so simple as a Romantic. His best verse describes the landscape of his youth, still loved in middle age, and those old-fashioned English virtues and eccentricities which resided there. His invocations of England are complex, often erudite, embracing a thousand years of history, but they are never nostalgic, never devoted to the false gods of "heritage" and folklore. They are the plain sentiments of a modern Englishman, striving to know his place in the world, and to be reconciled to the destruction of things that he has loved.

If there could be an English nationalist poet, it would be Sisson. The epigraph to his previous *Collected Poems* of 1984 was taken from John Gower: *O gentile Engleterre, d'oi perestre*. For Sisson, England is gentle in all senses of the word: and when he returns to his first love he becomes gentle, too. We live at a time of forgetting: our history, religion, culture, and literature are all but unknown to the younger generation. In the midst of such forgetting, Sisson is a poet of remembrance, who reminds us that the English must be who they were, or else they will be nothing.



If only all civil servants could be like him: C. H. Sisson, desk-bound visionary.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES  
WIN AN X-FILES HOLIDAY

Readers of *The Times* have the exclusive chance to win an exciting VIP fly-drive holiday for two to America, tailored for *X-Files* fans, courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox. The winner will visit the home towns of agents Fox Mulder and Dana Scully, Martha's Vineyard and Annapolis respectively, and spend two nights in Washington to tour the White House and Pentagon. Fans of the cult show, now a major film, will have no difficulty with our crossword, specially devised to coincide with the release at UK cinemas on August 21 of the *X-Files*, starring David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson. FBI special agents Mulder and Scully are drawn into a web of intrigue while investigating the mysterious bombing of a Dallas office building — and the secrets buried inside. As well as the six-night holiday, there are 50 runners-up prizes of limited-edition *X-Files* merchandise to be won.

**HOW TO ENTER** For your chance to win a VIP trip to America, you must successfully complete the *X-Files* crossword using the clues published this week. You must also complete the tie-breaker on the entry form, which will appear on Saturday. Send your entry, before Tuesday, September 1, 1998, to: *The Times/X-Files Competition*, PO Box 5070, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7FZ. No photocopied crosswords will be accepted.



A crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating the start of words.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Most of youth, note, Mulder lived there (8)
  - 2 See Dana use article, partly for the? (16)
  - 10 Like an extraterrestrial body, strangely unusual with one part missing (5)
  - 11 Smelter organisation two girls joined, we hear (9)
  - 12 Row with unknown agent (6)
  - 13 Nothing less than remarkable creator... (6)
  - 14 ... who's at home here in 3 and 17, brief (3,7)
  - 15 As crazy as Mulder? (4)
  - 21 What 32 got from leaders of entertainment, marking merit? Yes! (4)
  - 22 Source of Scully's problem with tizzer (6)
  - 24 A prospect, possibly, of installation for extraterrestrial travel (9)
  - 25 Agent Koycek named among male *X-Files* characters (4)
  - 26 Strange corn coin, appearing thus in movie (8)
- DOWN**
- 1 Line in clip showing status of *X-Files* (4)
  - 2 Taking section of FBI on, I countermanded order (5)
  - 3 State of Scully's education (8)
  - 4 Dangerous states Scully, incoherently, has to enter (5)
  - 5 Source of Scully's problem with tizzer (6)
  - 6 A prospect, possibly, of installation for extraterrestrial travel (9)
  - 7 Agent Koycek named among male *X-Files* characters (4)
  - 8 Strange corn coin, appearing thus in movie (8)
  - 9 Name attached to a piece of fiction — ET, for example (5)
  - 11 He is well suited to be a gunman (9)
  - 12 Acronyms transfer investing nothing in misplaced altruism (9)
  - 13 No alien seen in Fox's home on island (8)

You're mad for Marsden

Maybe there comes a point in every person's life when they no longer take their own past for granted, but begin to look back at it with a more intense wonder. When writers reach this point they are apt to write it down. Many of the pieces in *All Points North* dwell on Simon Armitage's origins in some way, his past or "his" piece of England.

In *The Tyre*, the best essay in this book, he is explicit about the recent evolution in his thoughts about his upbringing, considering it as somehow supernatural, involving experiences with "some element of exploration or expedition and quite often ending in mystery or alchemy". *The Tyre* is a satisfying stream-of-consciousness meander revolving around the subjects of tyres and memory, childhood and creativity.

*All Points North* is described on the dust-jacket as Armitage's first full-length book of prose. In some ways it's an odd mixture, almost a ragbag of pieces — essays, thoughts, scraps of dialogue, a short story written with such concision it suggests the synopsis for a film — or maybe that is what it is — transcripts of radio programmes and, naturally, the odd burst of poetry,

Lesley Glaister  
Wings £14.99  
ISBN 0 670 87300 4

Although there are trips abroad, most of the pieces are linked by their geographical setting. Armitage concentrates on his home patch — a bit of the North where the M1 intersects the M62, "where England tucks its shirt into its underpants".

The area to be precise is Marsden, a West Yorkshire village, very close to the border with Lancashire. Apparently even the bats have different dialects on each side of the border: "Yorkshire bats have deeper voices and are less chatty," a fact that comes as no surprise to the locals. *All Points North* is a book about borders, geographical and psychological — the border between the private, inner self and that which is constructed and constantly reconstructed, that which sometimes seems a stranger to the inner self. This other is addressed by Armitage as "you", and the move into the second person becomes part of the rhythm of the book. Sometimes this

chummy effect of collusion works, but sometimes I found it sticky and disconcerting: "At junior school you supported Huddersfield Town." I know he is really addressing himself, but I still found myself wanting to shout out "No, I didn't!"

I was irresistibly reminded of Alan Bennett — there is in this book the same wry humour, wonderfully telling selection of detail or remark. In *House Hunting*, a woman showing off her house says: "We thought the wardrobes were MFL, so we were going to chuck them... but it turned out they're Strachan, so we left them in, obviously."

I smiled my way through this book, and laughed aloud more than once, particularly enjoying an account of Californian-style training games employed by the Probation Service. As well as a humorist's eye, Armitage has, of course, the eye of the poet and the sprinkling of acute images comes as no surprise: "Wenters' cottages with their double glazing look down the hill-sides, like old faces wearing new glasses."

By the time I'd finished *All Points North* I'd changed my mind about the ragbag effect. The pieces shift about, as in a kaleidoscope, to reveal a pattern and rhythm in the movement between pieces, a fine balance of humour and poignancy. I shut the book with the feeling that I'd just shut the door behind an amusing and immensely entertaining guest — and simultaneously realised that I'd learnt hardly anything about Armitage himself. Alongside the current vogue for blocky self-revelation, he's remained unusually private about his own private self.

Lesley Glaister's novel *Easy Peasy* is published by Bloomsbury, priced £6.99.

Marsden, in Yorkshire, where Armitage grew up

MOST PARTICULAR  
Labyrinth  
Grand  
is a  
lithal  
band  
Redeemed in 1



سكزا من زيجيل

MOST PARTICULAR The lore of London

BOOKS

TIME TRAVEL The 19th-century Net

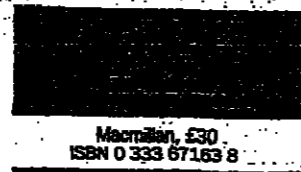
Labyrinthine city of the secret and the sacred

All life, all literature, all found in London: Peter Ackroyd wanders through her chartered streets

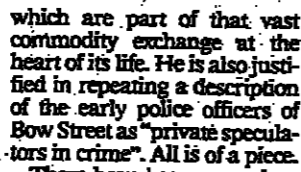
In the church of St Andrew Underhaft, beside Leadenhall Street, there is a monument to John Stow. He was the first great historian of London and every year, at the beginning of April, a new quill is placed ceremonially in his stone hand. So the citizens honour their finest antiquarian, with the changing of the quill as a solemn token of the fact that the writing of London's history will never end.

Stephen Inwood's *A History of London* is a part of this eternal process, a narrative of the city which begins with the Roman mercantile base of the 1st century and ends with the glittering commercial buildings of the late 20th. Here, if anywhere, there is a strong continuity; money and trade have always been the twin deities, the Cog and Maggog of London's existence.

That is why at the beginning of his study Inwood notes that "commercial policies", rather than anything more abstract or humane, have dominated city governance. He is also more concerned than previous London historians have been with the details of finance and trade since, in his words, "London... helped to commercialise England" and thus the world. He is very good, too, on the sexual activities of the city



Macmillan, £30 ISBN 0 333 73885 8



Macmillan, £45 ISBN 0 333 73885 9

which are part of that vast commodity exchange at the heart of its life. He is also justified in repeating a description of the early police officers of Bow Street as "private speculators in crime". All is of a piece. There have been more than 25,000 printed works on London's history, but Inwood's own narrative can fairly claim to be one of the most substantial and exhaustive. It does in certain respects resemble a textbook with headings and subheadings — "Working Women", "The City Banks", "Suburban Poverty" — but it will act as a strong corrective to those who have experienced only the poetry and melodrama of the city.

In his account of continual immigration, perpetual destruction and redevelopment, constant poor urban government, and everlasting poverty, he is concerned to emphasise the hidden continuities rather than the visible contrasts of London life. He observes how "stable" the conditions of the city remained, even in times of extremity, and notes that in 1997 "the inequalities between London's poorest and richest boroughs" are "reminiscent of those identified by Charles Booth 100 years ago" — and, we might add, 100 years before that as well as another 100 years before that.

There are other "London particulars" which Inwood's absorption in city history brings fully to life. He traces the history of urban radicals, from the Lollards to the London Corresponding Society, with a clear understanding that such radicalism has been an intrinsic feature of city life for more than 1,000 years. It is



London rises from its ashes: St Paul's seen through the fires of the Blitz

also part of the history of the London crowd — known to their "betters" as the mob — but out of that crowd have come the great observers of urban life. So Inwood makes the sometimes neglected point that the finest novelists of the 18th century, who were also the innovators of prose fiction, were Londoners: Daniel Defoe from Cornhill, Samuel Richardson of Salisbury Court, Henry Fielding in Bow Street, and Tobias Smollet within the purlieus of Grub Street. They all had visions of their great city and in turn Stephen Inwood concludes his history with a celebration of London as a "global city" which, in late

20th-century terms, echoes William Blake's ecstasium to "spiritual fourfold London". Blake is one of the spirits invoked by Julian Wolfreys in his account of the way in which the city has robbed its narrators of their reason and of their certainty. *Writing London* is about the unwriting of London or, rather, the way in which generations of writers have been unable to comprehend or to describe what Wolfreys describes as its "incompletion... an endingness... ineffability".

There are several cases in point. For the poets of the early 19th century it was a place both "terrible and miraculous"; Wordsworth, in particular, could not begin to comprehend what he called "the endless stream of men, and moving things". Yet that poet had in the process divined a permanent aspect of London life; he recognised, even as he recoiled from, its in-

inate and exuberant theatricality where there is nothing but the play of contrast and of difference.

Wolfreys then goes on to suggest that writers as diverse as Thomas De Quincey and Friedrich Engels have suffered similar anxieties in the face of "a city always in the process of self-transformation", one filled with "a multiplicity of events, chance occurrences, and fields of opportunities". De Quincey's *Confessions of an English Opium Eater* comprehends London in terms of his own isolation, invisibility and addiction. But it also plays a more formidable role: at one point he recollects a part of the city through which he endlessly walked — "Swallow-street, I think it was called". The point is that Swallow Street has swallowed him.

Engels tried to avert a similar fate by creating endless schematic models and quasi-mathematical surveys in order to encompass the immensity of London. He writes of "endless lines of vehicles... immense tangles of streets... hundreds and thousands of alleys and courts". He is attempting to create a "mathematical sublime", in Wolfreys's fine

phrase, simply to confront the sublimity of the dark capital of capitalism.

Only those great Cockney visionaries, William Blake and Charles Dickens, seem able to accept the essential unknowability of the city. In a very interesting discussion of the city, for example, Wolfreys notes how in the poet's litany of streets and areas, "cartography" is transformed into "cryptography" with a host of secret and sacred names testifying to the ineffability of urban existence. "Dickens's London", far from being some ascertainable, if mournful, period of the city's past, is a continually shifting and radically unstable place marked by "simulation and dissimulation... undecidability and supplementarity". In Dickens's novels, to put it perhaps more plainly, no one ever really knows exactly who or where they are.

*Writing London* is an absorbing and lively study, which can usefully be added to the great flood of literature concerning the city. "What can we ever say about London," Wolfreys asks, "except that there is always more to say about London?" That is why a fresh quill is placed in John Stow's hand every year.

Between hype and hypodermic: Rachel Campbell-Johnston on a painter's fall

Art and lies, a lethal blend

A little tan face looks out from the cover of this book, beneath two cocked tufts of black hair. The graffiti artist, Jean-Michel Basquiat, looks as alike to a Yorkshire terrier as it is humanly possible to be. And perhaps the resemblance doesn't end there. Like the plucky little terrier, he was at home in a rough, insensitive world. But cossetted by simpering patrons, groomed and pampered to suit others' ends, he overindulged and snapped at the hand that fed him.

By the time of his death, Basquiat was shooting up 100 bags of heroin a day. Strung out in the no-man's land between fame and greed, which ruled the New York art world in the 1980s, he slowly deteriorated. In this, the first



Quartet Books, £12 ISBN 0 7048 8072 2

full biography written about him, journalist Phoebe Hoban is concerned to capture the hedonistic mood of the times as much as the events which led to the demise of one of its most favoured victims.

Basquiat was born into a Warholian era. Leaving home for good at the age of 17 he set out into a world which owed more to the history of publicity than to the history of art, a realm littered with the names of the glittering and the starry: Debbie Harry, David Byrne, Robert Mapplethorpe, Miles Davis and Madonna — the last, one of Basquiat's many girlfriends. But as he skinned across the scene he left a trail of old lies, loves and loyalties behind him, coloured crayons and a rickety supply becoming his only constants. His first success was as the graffiti artist, SAMO, whose drug-inspired day-glo doodles plastered urban subways, the canvases of the underclass.

"You can be either a great artist or a great tragedy," Basquiat was told. "Why can't I be both?" he asked, the son of a Bohemia which was no longer a place for him to hide but a place to hustle. But the speed of his ascent owed more to the excess of the era than his



Basquiat enjoyed the adulation of the New York art world only to overdose on heroin at the age of 28

own obsessive drive. The first famous black painter, he became the lapdog of a powerful art world, his work bought like lottery tickets by those staking a claim to a future fortune. And Basquiat himself always wanted more: more people, food, possessions and, above all, drugs. In the end the junk that once he had used, began to use him. He died at the age of 28, in 1988, a "beautiful bubbling red-white foam coming out of his mouth".

In telling this cautionary tale, Hoban has exhaustively pieced together a jigsaw of interviews, trawling the New York art world for any whose path Basquiat crossed. Yet she is shy of analysis. Through the thick, heady atmosphere of the era only a blurred picture of the man emerges, a jumbled portrait of an ambitious, petulant, mercurial child, shy and selfish but also isolated and vulnerable. There is a vacancy at the centre of this book. It becomes the

mystery which draws the reader on. In a life which drew no distinctions from its art, from the wild truntrums of Neo-Expressionism, Basquiat the man seems almost like one of his characteristic erasures, a personality crossed out and written over by the very people who created him. Perhaps this makes the representation all the truer. Basquiat was always out of it. "I am not a real person, I'm a legend," he once declared.

Wired to history

Histories of science and technology have become very popular in recent years. Perhaps the dramatic breaks of the digital revolution have encouraged a search for precedents and continuities in what can otherwise appear to be a world born yesterday.

*The Victorian Internet: The Remarkable Story of the Telegraph and the 19th Century's Online Pioneers* is a good example of this attempt to ground the present in the details of the past. Standage traces the story of the technology from the 18th century and through the work of Samuel Morse, Cooke and Wheatstone, and Thomas Edison. He discusses the laying of the Atlantic Cable, which has a fascinating story of its own, and finally picks up the telephone, the system which supplanted the telegraph.

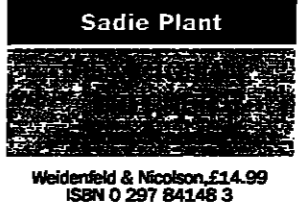
This is a relatively short history, condensed into a couple of hundred pages of crisp prose. It has little room for considerations of the broader influences of the telegraph, the more subtle ways in which it might have changed the sensibilities of its day: the roles it played in novels, later films; its coincidence with a vogue for the remote and invisible transmissions of telepaths and spiritualists. But the book does cover several aspects of the cultural impact of the telegraph and telegrams: the changes brought to working practices; its influence on newspapers and stock markets; the opportunities for business, romance and crime which the system spawned. Some of the most interesting material concerns the codes, the code breakers, and the fraudsters who found an ideal medium in the telegraph. Telegrams were central to the Dreyfus Affair, and Standage tells the story well.

In the final chapters, Standage spends some time on the legacies of the telegraph. Prime among these is the Internet, a system which has more in common with the early telegraph than it does with the telephone and the fax, its more immediate predecessors. The public reception of the Internet has been characterised by the same "confused mixture of hype and scepticism" which Standage finds in recollections of the telegraph.

Questions of security and encryption echo those once asked about the telegraph as well. The Net has also spawned its own cultures and vocabularies, with on-line lives, romance



Transatlantic cable is hauled ashore at Land's End in 1926



Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £14.99 ISBN 0 297 84146 3

es, deceptions, and commercial endeavours blooming on its networks as they once emerged on the telegraph.

*The Victorian Internet* is a history of people and events as much as a history of the technology. There is little reflection on the wider themes of technological change, but Standage does point out that the telegraph was one of the first technologies to be welcomed as a transformative, even a revolutionary, development. It has been followed by electricity, television, nuclear power: all of them once hailed as miracle cures for the problems of the world. The Internet

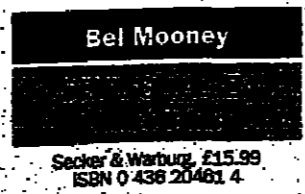
is the late 20th century's telegraph in this respect as well. Those who see it breaking down global boundaries and building a new world should, Standage implies, heed the lesson of the telegraph, a system which raised and dashed such hyperbolic hopes. He can see why the telegraph seemed to promise so much: what he doesn't understand is why the hopes remain so high, why the Internet prompts us to repeat the mistake.

But Standage then answers his own question. In the closing lines of the book, he declares that many of the hopes were not too high: the telegraph "really did transform the world". Today's proponents of the Internet may not be so mistaken after all.

*Sadie Plant's Zeros and Ones: Digital Women and the New Technoculture* is published in paperback by Fourth Estate later this month, priced at £6.99.

Redeemed in the valley of the shadow of Death

THE PUBLISHER'S blurb describes this 13th novel by André Brink as "a sumptuous entertainment", and the first thing to be said is that it has all the compulsion of a thriller. Initially, Brink's admirers may miss the dark, complex political preoccupations of his other work, and become irked by a structure which divides the text bizarrely, headlining each short section with a puzzling phrase apparently picked at random from that part. (It failed to comprehend this device, but no matter.) Yet *Devil's Valley* is deceptive. Once again the South African novelist returns to his great



Seymour Chwast, £15.99 ISBN 0 438 20461 4

theme of journey into the interior, physical and spiritual, which enables him to examine man's existence in a largely hostile universe. The narrator is Filip Lochner, a 59-year-old crime reporter. He is world-weary, foul-mouthed and disappointed. In the literature of confession the narrative voice must be imper-

cably realised; you have only to compare Lochner's cynical, careless tone with (say) the tight self-justification of Martin Myrhardt in *Rumours of Rain* to appreciate Brink's mastery. After a chance meeting with a young student who comes from a strange, isolated white tribe which has inhabited a remote valley in the Swartberg Range for 150 years, Lochner decides to fulfil an old ambition to write the history of these people. He cannot know their true nature: a community where religious fervour and racist conservatism co-exist with depravity, brutality, ignorance and fear. Searching for

truth he uncovers a web of stories which may or may not be lies. Embittered by his own lack of love and consciousness of failure, he nevertheless discovers a capacity for tenderness: "a state of grace on the other side of passion". Brink places his anti-hero in the predicament faced by all his protagonists: weighed down by personal guilt yet endowed with the power of self-deliverance. Behind the gripping story of Lochner's endurance in the Devil's Valley is an inquiry about man's relationship with a moral universe which manifests itself through physical forces: Brink is pre-

occupied with the elemental: Lochner's dangerous journey deep into the arid valley echoes Myrhardt's terrified moments of entrapment, and the struggle for survival in the wilderness of Adam and Elizabeth in *An Instant in the Wind*. Parched earth symbolises the aridity of the soul, yet when Lochner realises that you have to confront your own conscience and take responsibility both for the lives of others and for the wrongs done in your name, there is the possibility (ever-present in Brink) for regrowth and redemption. *Devil's Valley* is a fitting metaphor, perhaps, for a socie-

ty such as former Afrikaner South Africa — a political structure maintained by labyrinthine lies to ensure the preservation of a way of life inherently evil. The novel examines the nature of fiction, and the impossibility of ascertaining truth. Again and again, Brink returns to the theme: "With the lies of stories — all the lies, all the stories — we shape ourselves the way the first person was shaped from the dust of the earth." Yet when he asks, "How will we ever know? Does it matter?", the reader will supply the answer that the stumble towards understanding does indeed matter.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP SAVE \$\$\$ ON YOUR SUMMER READING Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire by Amanda Foreman £20 now £14 Sotheby's by Robert Lacey £20 now £15 Our Lady of the Sevens by Paul Richardson £16.99 now £12.99 Earthly Joys by Philippe Gregory £16.99 now £12.99 The Spears of Twilight by Philippe Descola £8.99 now £5.99 The Brunel House by Philip Marsden £6.99 now £4.99 Planning to travel this summer? The Bookshop has the guides for you. Please call for details for these or any book in print. FREE UK p&p Delivery in 7-10 days, subject to availability 24-hour service. Staff available 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm Saturday, and 10am to 4pm Sunday. CALL: 0345 660 916 (CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE) For Republic of Ireland and overseas orders add 20% to total book cost. Delivery is by air in Europe, surface to rest of world. (Almost outside Europe add 35%.) The suggested retail price of a book can be subject to change by the publisher without prior notice. Tick box if you prefer not to receive details of other offers



Bargains of the week - from a medieval barn in Cornwall, to camping in Iceland and Elvis Week in Memphis, Tennessee



A selection of last-minute holidays and travel opportunities at home, on the Continent and further afield, many at bargain prices

VIRGIN Hotels is offering last-minute breaks at 13 of its country house hotels throughout the UK. Rates start at £49.50...

CRUISING on the Norfolk Broads brings discounts for the weeks beginning August 29 and September 5 with Norfolk Broads Direct.

NEED to keep your teenagers entertained? Send them to summer camp for a week with

Superchoice. Activities include watersports, rock climbing and quad-biking, with accommodation in chalets at camps near Weymouth...

A MEDIEVAL barn in Cornwall can be home for a week from September 5 for £278 for four people.

MEET Desert Orchid at an open day at Malton racing stables on August 30.

HALLERY House Hotel in Cheltenham has a two-night break over the August Bank Holiday for £200 a couple.

ELGAR enthusiasts can learn about the life of the composer during a weekend stay in Malvern.

THE Mediterranean Jazz summer school takes place between August 16-23, allowing the chance to work with jazz tutors while relaxing in a 17th-century property in the Languedoc region of France.

STILL determined to get to the Med this summer? First Choice has a few packages left and they are not too expensive - a week's self-catering in Ibiza, leaving Manchester on Saturday, will cost £339.

SHOULD the sudden summer heat prove too much, escape to Iceland for a two-week exploration on August 30 with Exodus.

MALTA with a discount. Carlogan Holidays has reduced August departure prices by up to £200, with a week at a five-star resort now costing £552.

ART from the 15th and 16th century will be on display at the Memling and Gruuthuse museums in Bruges until December 6, with free admission on offer from Time Out on two-night breaks...

IN Copenhagen, meanwhile, the Golden Days Arts Festival runs from September 4-20. City Escapes has a one-night, B&B break from £71. Details: 0181-989 8939.

STAY three nights in Prague and receive the fourth night free at the Hotel Palace. Through Travellers Czech, the price is £482, with flights from Heathrow or Stansted. Details: 01959 540700.

THERMALIA Travel has mud, spa and massage breaks in Italy's Veneto region for £663 during August. Details: 0171-483 1898.

STUTTGART hosts the second largest beer festival in the world in September and October, with an accompanying folk festival and massive fairground. German Travel Centre has one-night breaks with accommodation from £170. Details: 0181-429 2900.



See St Petersburg's Spas-na-Krovi Cathedral in September

FLORIDA is very affordable this summer. A two-week fly-drive holiday, leaving on August 28 from Manchester or Gatwick, costs from £199 with Travel City Direct. Details: 01792 464646.

THE Seychelles is also attracting good deals. Elme Vacations has reduced prices by up to £50 for 12-night stays in September and October.

SHOULD you choose to find your own accommodation in the Seychelles, Traditions is offering flights with Alitalia to Mahé from £479 between September 15 and October 31. Details: 0171-938 3999.

THIS weekend sees the start of Elvis Week in Memphis, Tennessee. Pull on your blue suede shoes and head to the high street travel agents Lunn Poly, which has flights to Memphis for £550 until the end of August.

THE Sydney Opera House celebrates its 25th birthday on October 20. Join in the celebra-

tions, with flights to Sydney from £594 with Flight Bookers. Details: 0171-757 2468.

MORE anniversary celebrations in Nepal, where Encounter has been offering rafting holidays for 20 years. A 12-day holiday during the October-May season, including five days rafting, costs £519, excluding flights. Return flights to Kathmandu from £500. Details: 0171-370 6945.

A TWO-WEEK "Golden Ring and St Petersburg" tour starts in Kiev on September 4 and includes time in the former capital studying art and architecture. The cost of £945 includes flights, B&B accommodation and guides with Explore Worldwide. Details: 01252 344161.

All prices are per person and based on two sharing a room, unless otherwise stated.

See The Times on Saturday for more flight bargains and last-minute holidays.

TO ADVERTISE CALL 0171 481 1989

CHECK-IN

FAX: 0171 782 7824

FLIGHTBOOKERS Singapore £399, Los Angeles 1 week flydrive £449. 0171 757 2305

Airline Network - the way to go! USA & CANADA, AUSTRALIA & NZ, REST OF THE WORLD. 01772 727+

TRAVEL INSURANCE TAX FREEZE SAVE 13.5% INSURANCE PREMIUM TAX WITH CLUB DIRECT. 0800 074 4558

AMERICANA BEST OFFERS!! SAVE OVER 50% ON CONCORDE AT MOMENT'S NOTICE. 0171 637 4107

CUBA £569, FARESAVERS, FLIGHTWISE. 01476 560089

TRAILFINDERS MORE THAN JUST LOW COST FLIGHTS WORLDWIDE. 0171 928 3266

DELTA WORLDWIDE SYDNEY £531, BALI £450, CAIRNS £531, HONG KONG £415. 0161 272 8433

AMERICANA CONCORDE SPECIAL HEATHROW - BARBADOS - HEATHROW. 0171 637 4107

MAJOR USA SEPTEMBER SALE NEW YORK £274, DENVER £284, CHICAGO £325, FLORIDA £395. 0171 393 1065

Jetworld CHEAPEST FARES AVAILABLE. 01273 277 877

JETLINE FLIGHTS FROM £199. 0171 625 7660

GERMAN TRAVEL CENTRE 0181 429 2900. Open 7 days a week.

AMERICANA FAST-TRACK II 0171 636 3055. All fares listed are return fares.

JUST AMERICA The specialist tour operator to North America for fly drives, motorhomes, cruises, weekend breaks and much more! 01730 266 588

Charter 10% OFF CAR HIRE EUROPE WORLDWIDE. 0171 565 6807

FLORIDA FLIGHTS FROM £199. 01342 312 033

USA & CANADA TRUCK COACH TOURS, MOTOR HOMES, SELF DRIVE TOURS. 01803 866455

AMERICANA VACATIONS PLC 11 Little Portland St, London W1P 8EP. 0171 637 8485

STA TRAVEL WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL. 0171 361 6128

FLIGHT SEARCHERS 01920 484007

KENYA SPECIALISTS For Tailor-made Safaris. 0181 840 8881

AIRPORT LOUNGES Looking forward to your holiday? Airport full of people? noisy, hot, nowhere to sit? 01205 761176

AMERICANA CANADA & USA Low Cost Flights. 0800 279 2428









RUGBY LEAGUE

# Welsh bids fail to make grade in Super League

By Christopher Irvine

EXPANDING the horizons of rugby league, an issue that has consumed the sport for 103 years, must wait until Monday. A final decision will be taken then on the franchise application by Gateshead for admission to the JJB Super League next season. Cardiff and Swansea withdrew their bids for 1999 before a meeting in Huddersfield of clubs yesterday.

The omens for Gateshead appear to be encouraging, but not so for Wales. Without having the necessary financial guarantees in place at present, Cardiff and Swansea have been invited to apply again for the 2000 season, but with rugby union in the Principality in disarray, the reality is that the last chance to embed the 13-man code in Wales would seem to have been lost.



Lindsay: cautious

When the puff of white smoke emerged from a five-hour meeting of the 12 existing Super League clubs at the McAlpine Stadium, the news that there were no chosen ones, at least not until next week, came as a disappointment. However, it was not a surprise, for problems with all three bids had been highlighted by a report commissioned from the accountants, Deloitte & Touche.

For all the prudent talk attached to the decision by the separate boards of the Rugby Football League (RFL) and Super League Europe (SLE), the leading clubs' marketing organisation, not to support the two Welsh bids for next year, the game has lost face after the loud noises made on behalf of both Cardiff and Swansea, especially after the popular Super League roadshow matches there last month.

The Cardiff and Swansea consortiums withdrew after the RFL and SLE boards, which met on Monday, refused them admission without further details about their financial make-up. Similarly, the Gateshead bid, although nearer to meeting the neces-

sary financial criteria, was not supported initially. Overnight, the Gateshead franchise produced guarantees by the local authority that, if they satisfy Deloitte & Touche, should guarantee their entry when the SLE board meets at its offices in Leeds on Monday.

The optimism expressed by Chris Caisley, the SLE chairman, was shared by Kath Hetherington, a former RFL president who has led the Gateshead proposal. "I believe it is a case of dotting the i's and crossing the t's," she said. "I came

expecting a decision either way, but at least we're still in there with a chance. The decision needs to be based on a sound proposition and that's what Gateshead is."

Although the mood for expansion has not disappeared, this latest chapter in the blighted history of the game's efforts to widen its boundaries at a professional level indicates again a lack of potential investors. Without sugar daddies, unfortunately, London, Sheffield and possibly Gateshead will remain the only satellites beyond so-called the M62 exclusion zone.

Yet the concern to avoid a repeat of the short-lived embarrassment of Paris Saint-Germain, that impossibly glamorous and ultimately doomed one-off, was evident in the cautious gathering yesterday.

Caisley said: "We were hoping that we would be able to admit all three. We were extremely buoyed up by the roadshow results and, if we had been satisfied on all counts, we would have been delighted to have invited them."

"These are clubs starting from a nil base. They have got to market the sport, have the right people on board, have the infrastructure and be able to pay for all of that. If they're in any doubt at the end of the day — is anybody really suggesting to me that, notwithstanding all that, we should take a flyer?"

Maurice Lindsay, the SLE managing director, who had acclaimed all three bids at various stages of a long, drawn-out process, was in uncharacteristically cautionary mode after the accountants had picked over the applications. "We have to analyse business plans and we can't just say we'll start up a club," he said. "You have to have a thorough professional analysis, which is why Deloitte & Touche were appointed by the RFL, and their views have to be considered."

There are plans to again take Super League matches to Wales next year, although, unless Cardiff and Swansea commit themselves to try again for the following year, there might be less appeal for a sport that has abandoned Wales too many times, the last occasion two years ago, when South Wales was unceremoniously dropped as a Super League contender.

The winners of the first division this season will undergo a similar process in October by an independent panel looking into their financial viability to determine whether they, too, are financially fit and able for admission to the top flight. One reality that the Deloitte & Touche report failed to point out is that the game in its northern heartland is hardly a picture of fiscal strength, as several Super League clubs could testify.



Cook presents a formidable challenge to the established order as a woman in what many consider, probably unfairly, to be a man's sport

# Cook finds the formula for success

Paula Cook claims that she was a problem child, a tearaway, and when her parents told her that she could not follow her father into motor racing, she responded by making it her main aim in life. It was an ambition that she has realised in some style.

This weekend, Cook, 28, resumes her challenge in the British Formula Three championship at Pembrey, Wales, a homecoming of sorts after the annual classic in Zandvoort, Holland, where 80,000 spectators gathered last weekend for the Marlboro Masters. Derek Cook, her father, may have given his daughter the hunger to succeed in motor sport, but even he never raced in front of such a large crowd when he took part in the Formula Atlantic championships more than 20 years ago, even if he did enjoy the distinction of competing against Alan Jones, of Australia, who went on to become the Formula One world champion in 1980.

Few drivers reach the dizzy heights of Formula Three, even fewer appear at the front of the grid, as Cook has done in the past, yet the Rotherham-born driver did not get the easiest of starts in the sport. "People in motor racing usually begin when they're very young," she said. "I always wanted to go karting, but Dad knew what they were like. I had to be content with missing school to watch Dad race." She had to wait until she was 24 before she got her first chance to take an active role and then, when her younger brother, David, was showing a similar determination to take up the sport, her family relented and bought her a voucher for a course at the Jim Russell Racing Drivers' School.

Like Louise Alden-Walker, Davina Galica and Jean Denton before her, Cook is now commanding respect for her results and race craft. David Coulthard, the Formula One driver, has stated that he thinks women are not mentally tough enough to compete at the highest level, others claim

only men have the physical strength to handle the fast cars, but Cook, understandably perhaps, disagrees. "You have to put everybody else's comments about how women can't do it out of your mind," she said. "I've actually never experienced any harassment and when I get a good re-

sult, people in racing are genuinely pleased for me. To race in F1 is the dream, but while I believe I could do it, you have to be realistic. Those are the top 20 drivers in the world and getting that chance is unlikely."

Fitness would not be a problem. "They say F3 is the most strenuous form outside F1 and I've known men who have had to give it up because they couldn't cope with the G-forces," she said. "I keep myself fit and do specific training for whatever I think I need."

As if driving for leisure were not enough, she also finds herself behind a steering wheel away from the race track, rushing up and down the country between nearly 40 car dealerships that represent the other side of her working life. "The company was started by Dad before he was a racing driver in the 1970s," she said. "He used to find old race cars and do them up, but financially it was a bit of a struggle. When he got married and started having us kids, he had to choose. He began by break-

## SARAH POTTER



ing up cars and selling spare parts and, before long, he moved into a corner shop and sold parts from there. Then Datusin, as it was then, wanted to move into England and Dad was one of the first to start selling their cars."

Now D.C. Cook is a public company selling Nissan cars. David Cook works on the finance side, Paula in sales and marketing, having become the youngest person to be appointed a board director of a Stock Market-quoted company in the United Kingdom. The sponsors help finance the D.C. Cook Motorsport cars.

"F3 is nothing, cost wise, compared to F1," she said. "All motor sport is expensive and it's one of the reasons you have to be professional about your job from day one. A season in the F3 British championship will vary from something like £150,000 to £300,000. There is prize-money, but that usually goes back into the team so you can make the car go faster. That's what being a racing driver is all about."

## SAILING: IRISHMAN RECOVERS AFTER EARLY MISTAKE IN SINGLE-HANDED CLASSIC

# Foxhall claws back deficit

THE first leg of La Solitaire du Figaro turned into the longest stage in the history of the race as 47 skippers battled windless conditions and spring tides on the 385-mile course between Cherbourg and Dublin.

The leg, which was won on Tuesday by Michel Desjoyeux, of France, in TBS after 109 hours at sea, proved to be an enormous test of stamina and willpower, with many skippers arriving over the following 24 hours exhausted and, in some cases, running out of food.

Five yachtsmen retired after suffering problems with autopilots or power failures on their 30R one-design yachts, enough to eliminate them from the race for overall honours, which is based on total elapsed time over four legs. Others came close to giving up after anchoring up to six times off the Irish coast or miss-

ing tide gates, which condemned them to the lower orders.

The Figaro is the classic proving ground for French single-handers and the 1998 event has, among its foreign contingent, Damian Foxhall, of Ireland, in *Barlo* Plastics, attempting the race for the second time, and Marcus Hutchinson, of Great Britain, in the privately funded *Bergamot*, the first British entry in the race for years.

Foxhall, who had won the second prologue off Cherbourg, was a premature starter to the first leg and had to go back. He eventually re-crossed the line 30 minutes after the leading boat, but showed all his resilience and utilised his knowledge of the tides off the south east coast of Ire-

land to climb to a useful thirteenth place by the finish. Hutchinson fared less well, finishing in 27th position after missing a tide gate at the Coningbeg Lightship, 130 miles from the finish at Howth.

The first part of the race, which took the fleet across the English Channel to a turning mark off Start Point, went reasonably well. However, as the yachts turned west towards Land's End a predicted south-westerly failed to materialise and an arduous Irish Sea crossing lay ahead, with most skippers managing to average only 2.3 knots of boatspeed in their light and powerful water-balled boats.

Hutchinson is looking for a better performance on the next leg, which starts today and takes the fleet 40 miles to the de Groix near Lorient. "My goal is to be in the top three — and if I can make the top ten, I'll be over the moon," he said.

## DRUGS IN SPORT

# Italians banned over blood tests

By John Goodbody

CYCLING'S year of shame continues. Three more Italians were yesterday expelled from the Tour of Portugal after failing blood tests, following the banning on Tuesday of four of their countrymen from the same race.

This week's scandals will direct the spotlight even more fiercely onto the report, to be published today, by the International Cycling Union (UCI) on how to combat drug-taking. This was commissioned during the Tour de France this year, when the reputation of the sport was seriously damaged during a series of police raids and inquiries.

In the latest incident, Gilberto Simoni and Andrea Doldi, of the Cantini Tollo team, and Massimo Apollonio, of Vini Caldirola, were found by UCI officials of having haematocrit levels — the proportion of red blood cells to the total volume of blood — of more than 50 per cent.

This is considered a health risk and cyclists are immediately withdrawn from races. The level may also indicate the illicit use of erythropoietin

(epo), a substance that increases the number of oxygen-carrying red blood cells, so helping an individual's stamina in long-distance events.

The other four Italians — Mario Manzoni, Paolo Alberati, Graziano Recinella and Renzo Ragnetti — banned earlier in the week may now be sucked by their team, Mabilvetta Northwave, for alleged misconduct. Stefano Giuliani, the team manager, said yesterday: "They are professionals and must take responsibility for their behaviour."

Meanwhile, another cycling team, *Cofidis*, of France, announced that it would sack its star Italian rider, Francesco Casagrande, who is second in the World Cup, if it is "inconceivable" shown that he took a banned doping substance.

Yesterday, it was confirmed that the testosterone-epi-sterone (T/E) ratio of the winner of the San Sebastian classic last Saturday was unacceptably high when his urine was originally analysed in June. However, Casagrande has claimed that his normal ratio is unusually high.

**Legal & General**  
life cover  
for £10 a month.

You could help safeguard your family's financial future for £10 a month with The Legal & General Family Protection Plan. Then, if the unthinkable were ever to happen, your family could receive £102,469. And if you can contribute a little more every month, you could secure even higher cash benefits.

It's a small price to pay for a lot of peace of mind. Legal & General is one of the UK's leading financial institutions. Over two and a half million people are already covered by our life assurance and pension plans.

For a quote and full written details call the number below, or contact your financial adviser.

CALL FREEPHONE FOR YOUR PERSONAL QUOTE

**0500 33 66 66**

QUOTING REFERENCE NUMBER CZ7/DL12

Lines are open from 9am weekdays and 10am to 5pm weekends. For your protection, calls are usually recorded and monitored.

Further information on Legal & General products is available on our Website [www.lg.co.uk](http://www.lg.co.uk)

Now and then, we may tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick the box in the coupon.

Legal & General Direct Limited is a representative only of the Legal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Financial Services Authority and FSA for the purposes of recommending, advising on and selling life assurance and investment products bearing Legal & General's name.

Legal & General Direct Limited. Registered in England No. 2702099. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TP

Post to: Legal & General, FREEPOST (5WQ0467), Cardiff CP1 1YW. Please send me, without obligation, an information pack on The Legal & General Family Protection Plan. (No stamp required.)

Title (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Forename(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. Home \_\_\_\_\_ Tel No. Work \_\_\_\_\_

I do not wish to receive information on other Legal & General products

trust us to deliver

**FREE UMBRELLA**

FREE UMBRELLA FOR FIRST TIME TELEPHONE CALLERS. STAMPING £25 OR MORE USING SWITCHED DIAL OR SOLO BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY DEBIT CARDS.

Saturday CC Starts today. Live on Sky TV.

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 8/1 Woods        | 25/1 O'Meara     |
| 14/1 Duval       | 33/1 Leonard     |
| 16/1 Els         | 33/1 Parnevik    |
| 16/1 Furyk       | 40/1 Hoch        |
| 16/1 Price       | 40/1 Janzen      |
| 16/1 Westwood    | 40/1 Mickelson   |
| 20/1 Couples     | 40/1 Olazabal    |
| 20/1 Montgomerie | 40/1 Sibal       |
| 25/1 Lehman      | 50/1 Calcav'chia |
| 25/1 Love        | 50/1 Cink        |

Others on request. Each way one quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3, 4. Or on request each way one fifth the odds a place 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Prices subject to fluctuation.

LATEST WILLIAMS HILL ODDS ON TELETEXT CH4 PROGRAMMES

**RING TODAY - BET TODAY**  
**0800 44 40 40**

Free umbrellas will be sent within 7 to 10 days of your first bet being placed.

**WILLIAMS HILL**

TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 290 392. WILLIAMS HILL BUKLES APPLY. PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION.







# Old-fashioned values that bridge the generation gap

There are not many sports where you'd bet on the 79-year-old. But as was shown by one result, breaking through like sunshine in a soggy summer this week, there is no age bias in the wonderful world of bowls.

At the women's national fours championship in Royal Leamington Spa we have had the delightful picture of 19-year-old emerging champion, Amy Gowshall, being beaten by one of the sport's legendary old-timers, Irene Molyneux.

## 'Victory was a blow for its image'

Though Molyneux's exact age is one of bowls' closely guarded secrets, this Greta Garbo of the silent green is reckoned to be some 60 years older than the physical education student she came up against.

Molyneux's victory, accom-

plished with a touch of amazing grace, will have been an uncomfortable blow for those in bowls who are constantly worried about modernising their image. This is the factor who have been desperately trying to dump the idea that their sport is all Saga and slippers — the image that has lumbered their game with such insulting descriptions as 'old men's marbles'.

The public relations campaign to drag bowls into the overblown arenas of commercial hype has been going on for ages. The men from the white-trousered world have been casting envious eyes at darts and snooker. They crave the media coverage that these sports can command, and the sexy sponsorship it brings.

But the truth is that in a world where so much of sport is being taken over by an aggressive accent on youth, and where the old traditions and values are being distorted or kicked out by the power of the new governing giants of sport — cash, television and drugs — it is delightful and refreshing that bowls can still hang on to its time-warped ethos.

So what if they don't get crawled all over by Nike and Pepsi-Cola? At present their big three sponsors are Help the Aged Insurance, MasterSun Christian Holidays and Golden Charter funeral planners. In the recent past they have been backed by Sanatogen, Saga and Bupa Carehomes.

But while it is understandable that there are those in the sport who yearn for more street cred, they should beware of tossing aside what is unique about bowls — the good manners, graciousness and sportsmanship that are still preserved on the greens of Britain. Not that the sport lacks colour.



Two of the towering giants of its history were outrageous buccannars. There is no one bigger in the folklore of bowls than Sir Francis Drake, with the story of how he insisted on finishing his game on Plymouth Hoe before carving up the Spanish Armada.

And when the Victorians decided to slap bowls into shape as a codified sport, who should step forward but that sporting giant and genius, W. G. Grace. He was a prime mover in the founding of the English Bowling Association in 1829.

The secret that makes the bowl curl, is said to have crept into the sport during a game in Yorkshire in the reign of Henry VII when a player cut off the top of a decorative stair, bannister to replace a bowl that had split. The improvised bowl curled wickedly, and soon they were all at it.

There have been several versions of the game including 'road bowls' which, at the end of the 19th century, had the distinction of becoming one of the few sports to be criminalised in Britain, when it

was taken off the streets because it was seen as a danger to the newly emerging motor car.

Despite this racy past and various attempts to give it the superstar treatment, the beauty of bowls is that just when someone thinks they are ready to kick it out of its timewarp, along comes an Irene Molyneux, pushing 80, to reinforce its image. Not that there are no young people in bowls — far from it. Over the past ten years in the English men's indoor singles, not a winner has been over 33, and most have been under 20.

That great champion, David Bryant, had won eight English championships while still in his thirties. David Rhys Jones, who writes on bowls for *The Times*, started playing at 11, was English champion in his twenties, and

played 'illegally' in his local league in the 1950s, when it was against the rules to play men's bowls until you were 18.

But even with ever more young blood coming into the game, bowls is probably the last refuge of old-fashioned sporting values and would be mad to trade its white-pleated knee skirts and clean cut flannels for the ghastly world of Air Maxes and baseball caps.

If it needs more money to maintain those beautiful greens, then how about something from the National Lottery? For any game these days that is tantum in excelsis, free, drug-free, scandal-free, and can provide top class competition whether you are 19 or 79, must really qualify as the sport for all.

**'Some years for more street cred'**

JOHN BRYANT

## FOOTBALL

# Villa brush aside final offer of £10m for Yorke

By Matt Dickinson and Russell Kempson

MANCHESTER United's search for a striker this summer reached its unsuccessful conclusion yesterday when Aston Villa rejected a bid of £10 million for Dwight Yorke, the second time that they had fought off interest from Old Trafford and the last time they will have to, according to the Manchester club. United's chances of success in the European Cup Champions League this season will once more rest at the unpredictable feet of Andy Cole.



Yorke staying put

Martin Edwards, the United chairman, confirmed yesterday that he had fazed an offer to Villa Park late on Tuesday, increasing the club's initial £8 million offer for the Trinidad and Tobago international. "It is correct that we made a £10 million bid," he said. "It is our final offer. Alex Ferguson believes it is a good offer, but Aston Villa have rejected it and that is the end of it."

United appear to have run out of targets with the deadline for registering players for the Champions League looming on August 20.

There was delight at Villa Park, though, at the ending of

the transfer saga, with John Gregory, the Villa manager, relieved at his board's decision. "United's fax said it would be their last offer and I am delighted," he said.

"If Van Hoojdonk is now valued at £10 million, what is Dwight's price? He is worth that just as a professional and for how he handles himself. I am now going to ask him to think considerably about extending his contract." Yorke has two years left to run on his current deal.

Dennis Wise, the Chelsea captain, has been suspended for three matches after being

dismissed for violent conduct in the 4-0 defeat by Atletico Madrid in a pre-season match in Holland last week. He will be able to play against Coventry City on Saturday, the opening day of the FA Cup Premier season, but will miss the next games against Newcastle United, Arsenal and Nottingham Forest.

Paul Merson, who was sent off playing for Middlesbrough against SC Heerenveen last weekend, has yet to be reported to the Football Association by the Dutch FA. However, Middlesbrough have already sent a video of the incident to the Football Association and are claiming that Merson was wrongfully dismissed.

Wolverhampton Wanderers, the Nationwide League first division club, have warned Arsenal, the Premiership champions, that they will not easily part with Robbie Keane, 18, their Ireland striker. Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, and David Dein, the club's vice-chairman, attended Wolves' 2-1 defeat against Barnet in the Worthington Cup at Underhill on Tuesday night. "They're not going to steal him from us," Colin Lee, the Wolves assistant manager, said. "He is one of our best assets."

Nottingham Forest have signed Matthieu Louis-Jen, the Le Havre defender, after a successful trial at the City Ground. Frank Lampard, the West Ham United midfielder, has signed a new five-year contract at Upton Park.

Tomas Broin, 28, the former Leeds United and Crystal Palace player, has retired. "I don't feel like playing elite soccer any longer," he said.

Shane Nicholson, the former West Bromwich Albion defender, will discover from the FA today if he can resume his career. Nicholson, 28, was suspended from "all forms of the game" in April after being found guilty of failing to take a random drug test two months earlier. He was subsequently dismissed by West Bromwich.



Dominic Thatcher, right, of Wilton, strikes the ball in the match against Crawley and Hove yesterday. The Hampshire Hunt Branch, headed by the Pepper brothers, Nicholas and Jonathan, with Dominica De Ferranti and Fred Butler, won the coveted Jorrocks Pony Club Polo Championships title for the under-12s at Smiths Lawn, Windsor Great Park, yesterday, when they beat the Old Berks Hunt Branch. Nicholas also won the Tic Tac Trophy for the most promising young player. Eighteen teams competed in the first all-day championships.

## TENNIS: LACKLUSTRE WORLD NO 1 PROVES NO MATCH FOR POWER OF CZECH

# Vacek serves up surprise success

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

MARCELO RIOS, of Chile, who took over the top ranking on the ATP Tour this week, was no match for Daniel Vacek, of the Czech Republic, in the second round of the ATP Championship in Mason, Ohio.

Vacek, ranked 53rd in tour standings, disposed of Rios, 6-3, 6-2 in 62 minutes. Rios, looking lacklustre, stayed at the baseline most of the time, hung his head after hitting numerous returns into the net and watched helplessly as Vacek repeatedly knocked the ball past him.

Rios failed to hold serve in the sixth game, so all Vacek had to do was stay on serve

the rest of the first set. Vacek broke Rios in the third game of the second set, won the next game with an ace and broke Rios again in the fifth game. Both players held serve the rest of the way, although Vacek made the last game interesting, double-faulting at 40-15, and twice more, before ending the clash.

Earlier, Andre Agassi, back in the world's top ten for the first time since January 1997, kept his comeback rolling by beating Nicolas Kiefer of Germany.

Serving in game 12 of the second set and facing elimina-

tion, Agassi won four straight points to force a tiebreaker after falling behind 30-0, then dominated Kiefer and won 4-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Two seeded players also lost. Thomas Muster, of Austria, beat eleventh-seeded Tim Henman, of Britain, 6-4, 7-5 and Wayne Ferreira, of South Africa, the No 15 seed, defeated Felix Mantilla, of Spain, 7-6, 7-5.

Meanwhile, Nathalie Tauziat, the Wimbledon finalist, Sandrine Testud, the No 7 seed, and Natasha Zvereva, seeded No 8, were straight-set winners at a WTA event in

Manhattan Beach, California.

Tauziat, of France, the No 5 seed, beat Chanda Rubin, of the United States, 6-4, 7-5 and compatriot Testud, of Italy, 6-3, 7-5.

Zvereva, of Belarus, the No 8 seed, and a surprise Wimbledon semi-finalist, defeated Anne Kremer, of Luxembourg, 7-5, 6-2.

Iva Majoli, of Croatia, the 1997 French Open champion, booked a second-round meeting with Martina Hingis, the top seed, by rallying past Rita Grande, of Italy, 1-4, 6-2, 6-4. Hingis will be seeking her first title in three months.

## BOWLS

# Atherley quartet sweep to victory

By DAVID REYS JONES

PAT SUTTON'S Atherley quartet won a surprisingly one-sided EWBA national fours championship yesterday, when they beat Joyce Needham's Western Park from Leicester, 23-7.

Sutton and his team-mates, Marlene Kemp, Margaret Playle and Maria Collins, were overjoyed at their first national success. Although three of them have played previously for Hampshire's Johna Trophy team, the four have limited experience of the kind of atmosphere competitors encounter at Royal Leamington Spa.

Kemp and Sutton reached the quarter-finals of the pairs competition last week, and are clearly enjoying their best season. But they were fortunate to qualify for the championship, having been four adrift with one end to play against a quartet skipped by Wendy Line, the Commonwealth Games champion, in their area final.

They scored a four and sneaked the winning single on the extra end to clinch their place at Leamington. This week, almost unnoticed, they made steady progress to the final.

Their opponents — Jane Herbert, Sheila Reed, Pam Turner and Needham — pulled off the surprise of the tournament when they halted the imperious run of Oxford, beating Irene Molyneux's prolific team 17-4.

Oxford, who had scored 142



Molyneux surprise defeat

shots and conceded only 44 in their first five games, seemed on course to book their place in the final when they led 11-6 and 12-9. But three Leicester singles squared the match at 12-12, and the scores were still level, 14-14, after 19 ends.

The penultimate end proved decisive as Needham profited from the rub of the green with her last bowl. She saved a count of five by pushing an opposition bowl onto the jack to steal the shot, and took a single-shot lead into the last end.

Atherley scored an early five in their semi-final against Sue Chilton's Bert Keach quartet, from York. They held a 17-11 lead with three ends to play, and sat it out as their opponents mounted a late surge that netted four shots, but left them two short of a tie.

Western Park turned out to have shot their bolt in the semi-finals, and the final was disappointingly one-sided, although the noisy Hampshire supporters did not seem to care too much.

After seven ends, Atherley led 11-2 and, seven ends later, they were 16-5 in front. Needham's quartet managed singles on the 15th and 18th ends, but there was no way back as Atherley won 23-7.

For Kemp, it was the realisation of a dream. Having rolled her first bowl at the Bickford Smith club in Cornwall nine years ago, she moved to Hampshire in 1993, and joined the Atherley club as a novice.

## LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

1071-782 7344

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES**

1071-480 6282 ON 0171-481 9213

## EQUESTRIANISM

# Whitaker helps morale with first British win

JOHN WHITAKER produced a timely boost to morale for Great Britain ahead of the Samsung Nations Cup tomorrow when he led Virtual Village Hunters level to the £3,000 first prize in the Preis des Kreises Aachen, a speed class, to record the first British success of the Aachen International Show.

"He's at the top of his job at this level," Whitaker said of the 11-year-old, Irish-bred gelding, who is proving to be one of the most reliable speed horses on the circuit. He had three wins at the Royal International last month and was placed on each appearance at Aachen last year.

Yesterday, he relegated Eric Navey, of France, the 1990 world champion, to second place on Alligator Fontaine by 0.05sec. Vitor Alves Teixeira, of Brazil, finished third on his Belgian-bred Alfredo Lad. None of the other four Britons in the class were in the top 20.

The British had been out of luck earlier in the hotly contested final to the Preis von

Europa. The competition was the second success at the show for Hugo Simon and ET, his dual World Cup-winner, and confirmed their form for the grand prix on Sunday, in which a win would earn them a £600,000 bonus offered as part of the Pulsar Triple Crown.

The ease with which Simon earned the £10,000 first prize yesterday was a bonus in itself. The 56-year-old Austrian said: "I did not have to push ET too hard — Jos was nice to me." In reference to Jos Lansink, of Holland, who finished in second place on his La Baule Grand Prix winner, Nissan Cartagho 2, after an unusual careful round against the clock. Philippe Le Jeune, of Belgium, whose appearance in the ring was delayed for five minutes while his Irish-bred gelding, Double O Seven, had a shoe replaced, took third place.

Geoff Billington and it's

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR IN AACHEN

Otto was the only British rider to reach the 12-horse jump-off — in which the Dutch-bred gelding, who survived a near-fall over the practice fence, incurred four faults at the fifth fence, relegating him to ninth place. Mark Armstrong, competing here for the first time since 1993, jumped a superb round on Primma, but betrayed his inexperience when he finished more than two seconds over the time allowed.

He is unlikely to make the same mistake in the Nations Cup tomorrow — for which he is almost certain to be named in the Britain team alongside Billington and the Whitaker brothers. Virtual Village Heyman, John Whitaker's Nations Cup horse, jumped the combination fence after the water in copybook style — but had four faults at fence No 3, a straightforward over.

RESULTS: Preis von Europa, 1. ET # Hugo Simon, Austria 0 in 48.2; 2. Hugo Simon, Austria 0 in 50.17; 3. Double O Seven P Le Jeune, Belgium 0 in 50.24; Preis des Kreises Aachen, 1. Vitor Alves Teixeira, Brazil 0 in 50.24; 2. Alligator Fontaine G Navey, France 0 in 50.29; 3. Alfredo Lad P Simon, Belgium 0 in 50.87.

Rhodes ag

Brittin

















BOWLS 40

John Bryant on a sport for all ages

SPORT

THURSDAY AUGUST 13 1998

GOLF 42

Westwood makes his bid for major honours



Leicestershire fall agonisingly short of tall target in NatWest Trophy semi-final

Captain Cork takes bold path to Lord's

LEICESTER (Leicestershire won toss): Derbyshire beat Leicestershire by 3 runs

TO THE surprise, nay astonishment of everyone except possibly themselves — and even then, only possibly — Derbyshire won a place last night in the NatWest Trophy final. Leicestershire had only to bat through their 60 overs to win this game, and were doing so comfortably, it seemed, until they were thwarted on finishing line.

They needed ten runs from the final over and could not make them. Derbyshire's nerve held superbly, and they now meet Lancashire at Lord's on September 5.

With ten overs left Leicestershire needed 51 — no great task for a side which had six wickets in hand. But, after a wretchedly misguided little innings by their captain, Lewis, who was playing solely as a batsman, the requirement became increasingly stiff. It was left to Nixon and Williamson to seek the last 30 runs after Lewis had swatted Dean to mid-wicket and Habib, after making 56, was run out from mid-wicket by Slater.

Williamson took two runs from the first ball of the last over, bowled by Clarke, but

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

when Nixon was left to face the final delivery, with three required, he missed the ball and Krikken gathered it and bounded joyously up to the stumps to whip off the balls as a symbolic act of Derbyshire's superiority.

It had been hard earned. On a day when 595 runs were scored Derbyshire prevailed by just three. Cork, their captain, who made an unbeaten 61 and bowled respectively at critical stages of the Leicestershire innings, was named man of the match.

While he was at the crease, Phil Simmons must have had

his eyes on that prize. It seems quite extraordinary, and almost unbelievable, that Leicestershire were unable to win the game after he had made 90 fluent runs from 99 balls, with nine fours and a six. Together with Smith's 60, and Habib's well-paced half-century in a supporting role, these batsmen had taken their side to the brink. Then they were let down by Lewis, who found it difficult to lay bat on ball.

Simmons enjoyed one major stroke of luck, and Derbyshire almost lived to rue it. Leicestershire had just lost Smith in the 34th over and the last thing they needed was the surrender of another wicket. At once Simmons gave Derbyshire the chance to take it, hoisting De Freitas high to deep square leg where Cassar, advanced from the rope.

Simmons was 41, the score 153, and the match lay in the balance. If Cassar held the catch, Derbyshire would probably win; if it went down, they would surely suffer the consequences. Down it went. Cassar was left to stew in the juices of his misery until the innings was complete. My word, what a lucky young man he was last night.

On a pitch as good as this Derbyshire's total seemed a fair one, but not one beyond bounds. Even so, to get within a single of 300 takes some doing, and by removing Wells and Maddy in the first 15 overs, Derbyshire kept the game wide open.

They would have done better still if Smith had gone for three, as he should have done. He flashed hard at Dean and the ball flew between Krikken, the wicketkeeper, and Clarke at slip, as each man disavowed responsibility.

By the time he was dismissed, caught by Dean in his follow-through, Smith had added 93 with Simmons, nursing Leicestershire through a potentially awkward period. They were always up with the rate, scoring steadily at more than four an over, and Habib's arrival, as Simmons's junior mate, was no handicap. They needed 109 from the last 20 overs, which any decent team expects to make. On this occasion they fluffed their lines.

Derbyshire had some cause for regret in their innings, and the fallible chap was David Shepherd, who is regarded, not without reason, as the best umpire on any continent.



Despite the intensity of Williamson's appeal, Speedlove survived and went on to score 58 for Derbyshire

Computer tracking will leave players no hiding place

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

FORGET super slo-mo action replays or lengthy freeze-frame deliberations... Crystal Palace have come up with the latest in technological development to check on their team's progress on the pitch. If the radical move gets the go-ahead, Palace players will be tracked over every blade of grass during their matches in the Nationwide League first division.

It is the ultimate arrival of Big Brother onto the field of play and all the data will be collated and then analysed at the training ground the next day. No longer will an inept striker, having squandered numerous scoring chances, be able to sink off onto the wing to hide, no longer will the ageing midfielder player be able to deny that his legs have gone and rendered his work-rate negligible.

Mark Goldberg, the Palace chairman and multi-millionaire computer businessman, is behind the bizarre innovation that will see "transmitting devices" concealed in the players' boots and playing kit. Terry Venables, the club coach, can later call on the information to prove that his lads had not done well and had, in fact, shirked their responsibilities.

The Football Association yesterday gave it a puzzled response. "Does this mean microchips in their jockstraps?" a bemused spokesman said. "I suppose it won't be a problem as long as there is no additional equipment that will endanger the safety of opponents."

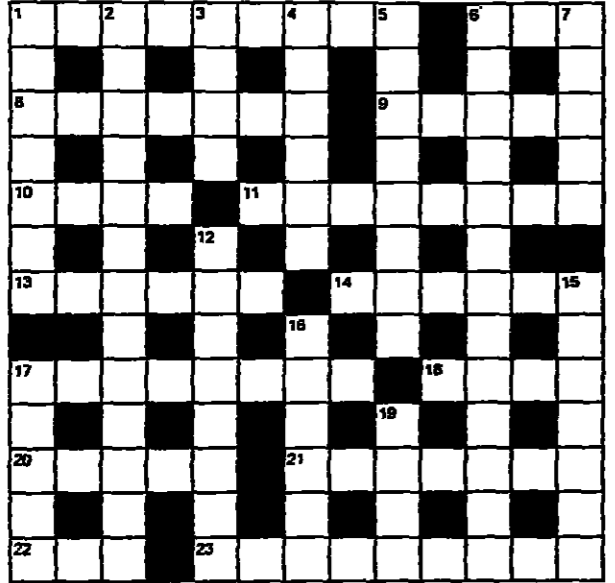
Goldberg is confident of success. "Terry can look at every move within a 90-minute period, recapture it within seconds and show the players where they are going wrong," he said. "It's an element of monitoring and redirection by Terry that will give us that edge."

While the hi-tech spy-in-the-shorts system is not due to be used until later in the season, and then only if trials are successful, officials at Selhurst Park knew little about Goldberg's brainwave yesterday. Perhaps the club telephonist had the right idea, when asked if she could reveal anything about the players' personal transmitters. "What do you mean?" she asked, "their brains?"

SCOREBOARD FROM LEICESTER

Table with columns for Derbyshire and Leicestershire scores, batsmen, and bowlers.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1483

- ACROSS: 1 Awkward affair (3,6), 6 Droop (3), 8 Give opinion (on) (7), 9 Bird's claw (5), 10 Rugby position: security device (4), 11 Eg Bounty rebel (8), 13 An athlete: a bean (6), 14 Busy, rushed: flushed (4), 17 Big glove: one run as punishment (8), 18 Covetousness (4), 20 Alternative name (5), 21 Daring, virtuoso display (7), 22 Male fox: gripping device (3). DOWN: 2 Meagre; grudging (9), 1 Disrupter of speech (7), 2 Lenghy (task) (4-9), 3 With Neisse, makes German/Polish border (4), 4 Clever, scheming (6), 5 Not a member of in-group (8), 6 Persuasive (speaking) (6-7), 7 One past redemption (5), 12 Throw overboard (8), 15 Readily tearful child (3-4), 16 Sachet for pot (3,3), 17 £1,000: splendid (5), 19 Volcanic flow (4).

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP. NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE. The Times Two Crosswords (Book 1-25), The Times Crosswords (Book 20)...

Welsh change breathes life into British league talks

By MARK SOUSTER

YESTERDAY morning, the proposed British league was, to all intents and purposes, doomed. Yet somehow the concept appeared to have been salvaged last night after a day of frantic negotiations instigated by England's leading clubs and involving the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and its Scottish and Welsh counterparts. It could start this season.

After a sea change in positions, especially from Wales, it is understood that the principle of the league will be finalised by the end of the week, with the fine print and detail of potentially contentious issues, such as promotion and relegation and television coverage, to be negotiated thereafter. It will mean that the European Cup will go ahead under its present format next month with English involvement, provided that the tournament is overhauled next year.

While there are still hurdles to be cleared, the goodwill now exists on all sides to make the league work and the opportunity should not be lost. Several factors give rise for the sudden optimism, in particular a significant softening of the stance of the Welsh, who are now keen to embrace negotiations without pre-conditions. A spokesman for the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) said: "We are doing everything in our power

to make sure it [the league] happens." Knowing that a bigger picture was being played out, the WRU yesterday granted Swansea and Cardiff a 24-hour stay of execution to decide their future. Originally, both clubs had been given until 5pm yesterday to agree to sign a ten-year loyalty agreement with the WRU or face expulsion. In addition, it is thought that there is tacit agreement to have eight Welsh teams in the league, divided equally between two divisions, subject to ratification by the English second division clubs and the RFU. It is also apparent that Vernon Pugh, the international Rugby Football Board (IRB) chairman, will not insist on English clubs dropping their legal challenge to the IRB in the European courts.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME?

Table showing First division and Second division conference lists.

division counterparts, meet Brian Baister, the RFU chairman, today in Wolverhampton. Baister has asked the clubs to provide proposals for the league, which would then be forwarded to the Welsh and Scottish unions and their respective clubs in an attempt to hammer out a deal. Although Baister's patience with the English clubs has been running thin recently, he is prepared to give the concept one last chance. Doug Ash, the chief executive of English First Division Rugby (EFD) said that public opinion would ensure that the league was born. "We believe that much of the hard work has already been done and, with intensive dialogue and constructive action, we could have possibly the greatest competition in club rugby. It is too big a prize to give up at the first hurdle."

The league's format would see 20 teams — 14 English, four Welsh and two Scottish — competing in two conferences of ten playing home and away with end-of-season championship play-offs and relegation play-offs. A second division comprising the 14 English second division clubs and four Welsh would also be set up. Ireland may also take part, with two representatives based on Leinster and Ulster and Connacht and Munster.

Advertisement for Joseph Turner shirts. Fine handmade two-fold cotton shirts usually £36 now from £26. Includes contact information for mail-order brochure.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, partially cut off, mentioning 'Blair face' and 'Girls in wh...'.